

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. WELLER. Madam Speaker, had I been present on the legislative day of June 18th for rollcall votes 499 through 501, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 499, "aye" on rollcall vote 500, and "aye" on rollcall vote 501.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 15, I was en route to California to attend the Stanford University graduation ceremonies for my son, Matt. As such, I was absent for rollcall votes 492 through 498.

If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted as indicated below: rollcall No. 492: "aye"; rollcall No. 493: "nay"; rollcall No. 494: "aye"; rollcall No. 495: "aye"; rollcall No. 496: "aye"; rollcall No. 497: "aye"; and rollcall No. 498: "aye".

COMMENDING NANCY HOLMES ON THE OCCASION OF BEING HONORED BY THE HISTORIC MOBILE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend Nancy Holmes and offer her our heartfelt thanks on behalf of the people of southwest Alabama for a lifetime of service to both the City of Mobile and the State of Alabama.

For almost six decades, Nancy has dedicated a considerable amount of time toward preserving Mobile's historic landmarks. Nancy Holmes moved to Mobile in 1950 and was one of the original members of the Mobile Historic Development Commission. She served several terms as president where she established a fund to prevent the destruction of historic buildings, including the Horst-Ezell House.

One of the most highly regarded preservation architects in the United States, Nancy has received many honors over her years of service including the M.O. Beale Scroll of Merit, a certificate of appreciation from the governor of Alabama, the Travel Award Trophy from the Mobile Chamber of Commerce, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alabama Historical Commission, and the First Lady of Mobile recognition in 1966. She has also held several positions with the Historic Mobile Preservation

Society including president, civics chairman, Oakleigh Historic House Museum guides chairman and program chairman. She has published articles in *Antique* magazine and is actively involved in the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a member.

This month, the Historic Mobile Preservation Society is bestowing Nancy with the Preservationist of Distinction award for her lifetime of achievement as a historic preservationist.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Nancy for her tireless commitment to the betterment of Mobile. I know her family and many friends join with me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts over the years in making Mobile and southwest Alabama a better place.

IN HONOR OF THE RIDGEWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Ridgewood Chamber of Commerce for its 80 years of outstanding public service to the residents, businesses, and community of Ridgewood, NJ. I have had the honor of meeting with the men and women of this fine organization and have seen firsthand the tremendous sense of dedication they have to their neighbors.

The board of directors that runs the operations of the Chamber of Commerce is very active in meeting the needs of its membership, raising funds for Chamber activities, organizing events to draw people to downtown businesses, and running a scholarship fund for local students. Under the leadership of its current officers with President Tony Damiano at its helm, the Chamber has made great strides. And, I have every expectation of that under the tutelage of the incoming officers: President Ed Sullivan, Vice President John Kiernan; Treasurer Patricia Duarte; and Secretary Linda Coombs.

The Ridgewood Chamber of Commerce will continue to excel in all its endeavors, helping to raise the quality of life in the Village of Ridgewood for all who live, work, and visit that community for the next 80 years as well.

TRIBUTE TO MOLLY LLOYD

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Molly Lloyd, who has recently retired from my congressional staff after 8 years of

dedicated and excellent service to the constituents of the Second Congressional District of Nebraska. With a 1-year-old daughter, Ellie, and 5-year-old daughter, Emma, she and her husband, Mark, are devoting their time to their family, which makes a tribute to her all the more bittersweet. I wish the Lloyds all the happiness in the world as they embark on the next stage of their lives together.

Molly is a lifelong Nebraskan and was born to proud parents Kay and Bob Koozer in Omaha. She graduated from Westside High School in 1991 and attended Hastings College where she earned a bachelor's degree in communications in only 3 years. After college, she worked to elect Mayor Hal Daub for the city of Omaha and served as his director of public affairs until 1997. I was fortunate to gain her as a member of my congressional staff upon my election in 1998.

In fact, although people in the community criticized me for hiring someone so young to become the director of my Omaha office, their criticisms were soon silenced as her talents and her commitment to selfless public service became obvious to the entire community. Her strong leadership skills and fierce dedication to conservative principles have served my office well.

Molly knows her hometown inside and out and is an active member of the community, including volunteering and advocating for causes and organizations such as the Joslyn Foundation, the American Diabetes Association, and as a founder of the Leadership Circle to help the next generation of women leaders enter public service. Despite her departure from our Omaha office staff, we know Molly will continue to do great things for the betterment of our State and community.

I appreciate Molly's friendship, and I respect her dedication and invaluable contributions over the past eight years. I trust Molly will succeed in all her future endeavors. I am proud to call her a friend and to congratulate and honor her today for all that she has accomplished. I wish her many blessings and much happiness as she begins this new part of her life. Although I am tremendously sorry to see her leave our office, her young daughters will now be privileged to receive the full-time benefits of her extraordinary talents.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT J. BURROWS

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert J. Burrows, a respected and invaluable resident of the 13th district of New Jersey. Mr. Burrow's life set a higher standard in public service and dedication to the well-being of his community through his roles in the areas of education, public office and congressional service.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Robert Burrows made Bayonne, NJ, his home for the last 50 years. He was instrumental in shaping the City's government, making his mark after serving as Bayonne's First Ward Councilman from 1994 to 1998. Mr. Burrows also served as Commissioner of the Bayonne Board of Adjustment, later becoming vice chairman.

Robert Burrows helped shape the future of the City of Bayonne as a citizen-appointed Member of the Hudson/Bergen Bayonne Light Rail Advisory Committee. In this capacity, he led Bayonne in becoming the first stop of the historic light rail system that has brought expansion and economic development to the region. Mr. Burrows also served as trustee of the Board of Education during the construction of the Midtown Community School.

Throughout his life, Mr. Burrows was an active member of the community. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Holy Name Society, St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish Council, the Bayonne Sicilian Club, and Irelands 32. Mr. Burrows also served on the Board of the Bayonne Community Museum and was First Chairman of the Bayonne Historic Preservation Commission. His love for public service was also demonstrated as a member of the New Frontier Democrats.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Robert Burrows was a graduate of New York University. He was a dedicated employee of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for 42 years until his retirement as vice president of the Claims Division.

From 1998 to 2006, Mr. Burrows served as congressional aide to U.S. Senator ROBERT MENENDEZ, and I was proud to have him serve in my office until his retirement. I congratulate Bob and his family for his dedication to the constituents of the 13th congressional district and in particular, to the residents of Bayonne.

The outpouring of expressions of condolence to his wife Marie, his children and grandchildren are evidence that his commitment to helping others will be deeply missed. I join them in mourning the loss of a true gentleman, whose memory will live in the hearts of the many people he touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent yesterday afternoon, June 18, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the three votes which occurred yesterday evening, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 2563, rollcall vote No. 499; I would have voted "aye" on H. Con. Res. 151, rollcall vote No. 500; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 233, rollcall vote No. 501.

INTRODUCTION OF 2007 MINE SAFETY PACKAGE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, in the hope of keeping the health and safety needs of our

coal miners at the forefront of our Nation's conscience, I am pleased to join my colleagues, the Chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, GEORGE MILLER, and ALAN MOLLOHAN from West Virginia in sponsoring a new legislative package on mine safety.

The mine tragedies of last year are the result of a government and a Nation that let down its guard. That should never have happened.

Nevertheless, the Congress responded quickly and appropriately with the passage of the MINER Act, which I proudly supported. Today, the Congress continues responding with the introduction of the Supplemental Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2007 (S-MINER).

This bill would ban the use of belt air to ventilate the working face of a mine—a flaw that contributed to the fatal fire at the Aracoma mine in my district. I have long opposed this practice, and I am glad to support the ban contained in this bill.

The bill requires improvements to air quality monitoring to guard against black lung disease, better safety examinations, and improved construction and monitoring of seals—all things that could have helped to save some of the 47 lives lost in the coalfields in 2006.

Also, importantly to my State, S-MINER calls for the installation of refuge chambers and helps to coordinate State and Federal deadlines and safety mandates. In West Virginia, operators are facing those looming requirements. A Federal requirement for chambers would undoubtedly save lives. It would, as well, help to reduce their cost and increase their availability, ensuring that more of our miners have access to refuges in life-threatening emergencies.

The legislative package contains concepts and provisions that have been part of mine safety discussions for years, if not decades. The elements contained within should not come as a surprise to anyone who has been within shouting distance of the coalfields in the last several months.

I welcome the discussion and the debate sure to come concerning this legislation. As long as we are talking about mine safety—whether we agree or not—we are not ignoring it. And that is a critical improvement to the purposeful neglect of recent years.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague, GEORGE MILLER, for his attention to this vital issue and I thank him for his continuing work on behalf of our Nation's coal miners and their families.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 498, I inadvertently voted "no" on H.R. 2642, the appropriations bill for military construction and the Department of Veterans affairs. I intended to vote "yes". This is an important piece of legislation. H.R. 2642 will be the vehicle for appropriating the funds directed to the new VA hospital, authorized in the FY 07 appropriations process, that will be located in central Florida.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2642, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2642) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, we have a solemn responsibility to honor the promises we've made to our veterans. Boldly heeding the call to duty, brave men and women from across America have served with distinction in defense of our Nation. They have dedicated their lives to safeguarding the promise and potential of our country, and we have an obligation to repay their commitment.

The veterans of California's 6th District understand that our obligation to our service men and women does not end when they return home. The importance of providing our veterans with the benefits they need and deserve does not abate just because our troops are no longer serving in the field. Our support for troops is a lifelong commitment.

The substandard care, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and deplorable conditions exposed at Walter Reed Military Hospital underscore broken promises to our Nation's veterans. We cannot allow the Bush administration's failure to become the hallmark of our country's commitment to our veterans. Our veterans deserve much better.

The Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2008 is a resolute step toward fulfilling the promises to our veterans that the Republican-controlled Congress neglected during the past 12 years. This bill increases the VA's budget by \$6.7 billion above fiscal year 2007 funding levels, providing the greatest single increase in funding for veterans health care in the 77-year history of the VA and, for the first time, exceeding the budget requests of independent veterans service groups. Additionally, this legislation confronts the 400,000 claims backlog from veterans awaiting decisions on the status of their disability benefits by adding more than 1,100 new claims processors. By allocating critical funding to help repair veteran's health care facilities, establish eight new centers to care for veterans suffering from Traumatic Brain Injuries, and facilitate the transition from the Defense Department to the VA, this appropriations bill will go a long way toward fixing the problems that the Bush administration has allowed to fester.

The veterans' community needs our reinvestment in their health care and benefits system. Our service members have proved courage and patriotism, and it's our turn to prove that we can keep our promise to them. This Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs Appropriations bill shows that we can provide our veterans with medical care, benefits and social support in a timely manner. By passing this bill, we can start to repay them for the bravery they have shown.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 252, 414, and 454.

I take my voting responsibility seriously, and if I had been present, I would have voted "yea" on each.

**HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
PORTER EDWARD TAIT, JR.**
HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Camden and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. Porter Tait, Jr., a devoted family man, was dedicated to the continued growth and prosperity of Camden. A U.S. Army veteran, he served in World War II and the Korean war and worked for International Paper for over 20 years.

A life long resident of Wilcox County, Porter was a member of Camden Baptist Church and a member of the BYKOTA Sunday School Class. A master Mason, Porter was a member of the Dale Lodge #25 for 55 years. He was also a Shriner, a member of the Alcazar Temple in Montgomery, the American Legion Post 84, and the Selma Elks Lodge.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. Mr. Porter Tait, Jr. will be deeply missed by his family—his wife of 51 years, Lula Lee Ray Tait; his two sons, Porter Edward Tait III, and Timothy Ray Tait; his one daughter, Dr. Margaret Tait Moore; his four sisters, Martha Jones, Pauline T. D'Alessio, Laura Carr, and Doris Locklin; and his six grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

In addition to my statement, I ask that an accompanying article from the Wilcox Progressive Era, written by its longtime publisher, M. Hollis Curl, be included in this tribute to Porter Tait. May he rest in peace.

Family and friends gathered yesterday at the Camden Baptist Church to eulogize Porter Tait before driving on down to Reaves Chapel Baptist Church for Masonic services at graveside.

Porter died late Sunday afternoon at J. Paul Jones Hospital where he had been a patient for several days. Members of his loving family were at his bedside; anguished at his leaving them but relieved that his suffering was over.

I first came to know Porter Tait in the late 1960's; just a few years before a serious stroke left him substantially disabled. His two sons, Ted and Tim were classmates of my son, Mark, and daughter, Julie. His daughter Meg came along a bit later and we all marveled at her superior intellect as she breezed through college at Auburn before graduating from medical school in Bir-

mingham. She—along with her brothers—was a source of great pride to Porter and his wife, Lula Lee.

Actually, there was a "family" bond of sorts between Porter and me. We shared a grandson, Tyler Tait, who was born to Julie and Ted. They eventually went their separate ways but have remained friends over the years.

But I digress. This is not about family, nor friends, nor relationships. It is about a man who was loved and respected by all who knew him.

The stroke which left Porter unable to work forced him to get about on unsteady legs and, as the years went by, to limit his speech somewhat. But he never gave up.

For quite a few years Porter made his usual rounds about Camden in a little VW bug which he eventually abandoned in favor of a small pickup truck. Those two vehicles were seen almost daily at the business places of friends he had known all his life.

One of his favorite activities was helping as best he could with barbecue cooking at the drive-in which his son Ted sold to Travis Durant who sold it to Larry Gaston. Porter knew just what it took to turn out mouthwatering barbecue spiced with his own brand of tale-telling around the fire.

Most younger folks in Camden probably didn't know Porter Tait. His disability had kept him close to home on McWilliams Avenue just across from the hospital. That is unfortunate because Porter Tait was the sort of fellow who could impart great life lessons drawn from his 79 years of life.

It is also important to note that Porter Tait was a devout, born-again Christian who read his Bible every day. He knew the message Jesus gave us and he incorporated those beliefs into his life and his relationships with those who visited him as he grew increasingly home-bound.

Come to think of it, when it came to living a Christ-like life I never saw anything in Porter's life to diminish my respect for him.

He played out his life with the hand that was dealt him and I never heard him say an unkind word about anybody.

He was a good man.

**HONORING OUR COMMITMENTS TO
THE COAST GUARD**
HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my support to the U.S. Coast Guard and our efforts to modernize their fleet. The brave men and women of our Coast Guard deserve the resources they need in order to carry out their mission. We need to support funding for the many programs aimed at strengthening our drug interdiction and refugee recovery efforts, much of which can be accomplished by ensuring that the necessary funds are dedicated towards the Deepwater acquisition program. Nearly a decade ago, the Coast Guard initiated a multi-billion dollar effort to modernize its aging assets. However, due to serious gaps in funding and a lack of program accountability this effort has fallen short of its goals thus far. Many problems have been raised, however reforms have been made, and yet much more needs to be done. Amidst such controversy, let us not forget the crucial role the Coast Guard plays in ensuring both public safety and national security.

The Coast Guard has a critical role in our struggle to eliminate drug trafficking that is fre-

quently used to finance global terrorist organizations in their war against freedom and democracy. Earlier this year our Coast Guard, working in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration, seized in one raid nearly 20 tons of cocaine with an estimated value of \$300 million. This was a tremendous victory in our War on Drugs and our battle against terrorists and their financiers, especially considering the deep water cutter used in the seizure was an antiquated, 40-year-old cutter. However, victories of this sort will become increasingly difficult if we are not able to modernize our fleet and aircraft to keep up with the technology used by terrorists and drug lords. We must support increased funding to ensure our Coast Guard has the resources needed to efficiently and effectively perform their mission.

As noted by the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Committee report: the Coast Guard is currently operating at a 25-percent deficit of its patrol boat mission hours. This level of insufficient mission hours will be further magnified as our Navy will be reducing the 179-foot patrol boats currently being used by the Coast Guard, from five to three.

With a reduction of two patrol boats, the gap of mission hours will be increased by another 5,000 hours. With a discrepancy this large, we are leaving our waters dangerously unpatrolled; thereby creating an open playground for narcotraffickers. This is not an acceptable option for the rest of the country, but this is especially disturbing to the Citizens of South Florida, who rely on the Coast Guard to protect and their economic viability and security. I commend the men and women who serve in our Coast Guard for their diligence and dedication to continue to secure and protect our ports, inland waterways, coasts, and international waters. In my congressional district, I am privileged to have two Coast Guard Sectors that patrol the waters of South Florida: Sector Key West and Sector Miami. I know the good work these individuals are involved in and I deeply appreciate the dangerous work they do to maintain the safety and security on our waterways. The efforts of these brave men and women have saved countless lives and greatly enhanced our national security. We cannot let them do their jobs without the tools necessary to keep them safe as they work to keep our country safe.

**HONORING THE MORRIS PLAINS
FIRE DEPARTMENT**
HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morris Plains Fire Department, in the Borough of Morris Plains, Morris County, New Jersey, a patriotic community that I am proud to represent! On June 23, 2007 the good citizens of Morris Plains will celebrate the Fire Department's 100th anniversary with a parade, picnic, awards ceremony, and fireworks.

In the early 20th century, Morris Plains was a small community within Hanover Township and was supported by the Hanover Township and Morristown Fire Departments. However, in 1906, the Wise Hotel in Morris Plains was completely destroyed before either fire company could respond to the call. The incident

brought to the town's attention the need for local fire protection, and on April 25, 1907, in the meeting hall of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics on Franklin Place, the Morris Plains Fire Association was incorporated.

The Fire Department's first purchase was an American LaFrance horse drawn hook and ladder that was financed from donations from the local citizens. Another citizen pitched in by donating his own horse and wagon to be converted by the firemen for use as a hose and wagon.

As the community grew, in 1926, it was decided that Morris Plains would break away from Hanover Township to become what is known today as the Borough of Morris Plains, also known as the "community of caring." In addition, the new Borough government assumed the position of maintaining and replacing fire apparatus. The Morris Plains Fire Association became the Morris Plains Fire Department.

In August of 1940, a fire in the roof of the firehouse damaged the building beyond repair. The Borough Council had been conducting their business in the firehouse meeting room. The Fire Department and Council built a shared facility that today encompasses quarters for the Fire Department, Police and Borough offices.

Today, the Morris Plains Fire Department is led by Chief Michael Geary who successfully commands an all volunteer fire department of about 80 members serving close to 5,250 residents in about a two and a half square mile area.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Morris Plains Fire Department and all their firefighters, past and present, on celebrating 100 years of protecting one of New Jersey's finest municipalities!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, on Monday June 18, 2007, I was tending to some family matters and thus missed rollcall votes 499, 500, 501. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all votes.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF RUTH ONITA SPAKE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable person, Ruth Onita Spake, who has dedicated her career and life to public service as Chief Financial Officer for the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency. She is retiring from the County of Santa Clara on July 20, 2007 after thirty-seven years of exemplary work.

Ruth Onita Spake was born on April 3, 1945 in Tallahassee, Florida. Academic excellence was a priority for her; she received an Associ-

ates Degree from Napa Junior College and obtained her Bachelors Degree and a Standardized Secondary Teachers Credential from the University of California, Davis. Before joining the Social Services Agency, she worked as a substitute teacher and as a cost account clerk for an international newspaper.

Ruth's career with Santa Clara County began in 1970 as a Food Stamp Eligibility Worker, where she interviewed applicants on an individual basis to help determine their eligibility to receive county resources. She quickly rose through the ranks and became a Supervisor in just four years. Soon after that, she was appointed as the Program Coordinator, responsible for organizing and directing the entire food stamp program.

After receiving a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of California, Riverside, Ruth continued to contribute to Santa Clara County. In 1980, she joined the County Executive's Office of Management and Budget where she stayed for five years. However, she could not resist the call to work towards improving the welfare of Santa Clara residents. By 1985, she had returned to the Social Services Agency to manage the agency's budget.

Ruth progressed quickly through the agency, and her efforts were admired by all those who had the pleasure of working with her. By the early 1990's, Ruth was managing the \$500 million dollar budget of Social Services in conjunction with Central Services and Information Systems. Her role as the Chief Financial Officer afforded her the opportunity to initiate modernization for the agency. She planned and implemented a multi-building renovation project for the agency, revamping the physical infrastructure to supply superior services for the residents.

In addition, Ruth co-chaired the California Welfare Directors and California Department of Social Services Task Force, an association that significantly refurbished the statewide county reimbursement process. This development benefited not only the inhabitants of Santa Clara County but also positively affected those of all fifty-eight counties in California.

Ruth's main interest is her desire to travel. Being of French descent, she is strongly attracted to the French culture and can be classified as a true Francophile. After her retirement, she will undoubtedly dedicate her time to exploring foreign countries and expressing her love for anything French.

Ruth's outstanding achievements at the Social Services Agency were numerous, and their impact on Santa Clara County is immeasurable. Her ability to understand and employ the funding behind the provisions of public social services is astonishing. Where others might have merely done what was required of them, Ruth has gone above and beyond what her job description entailed to provide the Social Services Agency with more efficient methods of serving the residents of Santa Clara County.

I offer my congratulations to Ruth Onita Spake on her thirty-seven distinguished years of exceptional service to the Santa Clara community. Her dedication and sacrifice is the very definition of public service, and her tireless efforts to build and sustain the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency will forever be appreciated and remembered by all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 18, 2007, I was not present for votes due to mechanical problems on my flight to Washington, DC caused by Northwest Airlines.

Had I been present for rollcall 499, H.R. 2563—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 309 East Linn Street in Marshalltown, Iowa, as the "Major Scott Nisely Post Office", I would have voted "yes."

JUNETEENTH DAY—ACKNOWLEDGMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the historical importance of June 19. This is the day that signifies the initial abolishment of slavery in the United States.

As you are aware, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862 to declare freedom of all slaves in the territories of the Confederate States of America by January 1, 1863. Despite the proclamation being issued in September of 1862, most people did not know about it because the infrastructure of communication at that time was no where near as sophisticated as it is today and slave owners undoubtedly did not want their slaves to know about their freedom. On June 19, 1865, troops descended on Galveston Island in Texas to impose the proclamation. Since then, June 19th has been celebrated and recognized as the day slaves were freed. The name Juneteenth is a compilation of portions of the word June and the 19th day of the month. June 19th is an official holiday in Texas and is recognized in some States including New York as an official holiday.

It is extremely important that we not forget the institution of slavery. It represents a very dark part of our history in the United States. The cost and sacrifices of people who were enslaved are immeasurable. For those who lived long enough to be set free, their strength is awesomely inspiring to me and nothing short of a miracle. When I reflect on slavery and the suffering endured, I am humbled and feel grateful for the steadfastness, courage, and faith of my ancestors. I would not be where I am today, if it were not for them.

On this day, I urge my colleagues and all Americans to remember the injustice of slavery and celebrate the abolishment of it. So much progress has been made in our great country towards the rights the forefathers and other great leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned for all Americans. We shall continue to advance civil and human rights, embrace diversity, and treat each other with dignity and respect.

TRIBUTE TO THELMA BERTIE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Thelma Bertie of the Bronx, NY, and to recognize her on the celebration of her ninth birthday. Ms. Bertie is an 87-year resident of New York and has exhibited steadfast commitment to American ideals by faithfully voting in every local and national election since reaching voting age. I commend her on this great dedication to her civic duty and I wish her a joyous day with many more happy moments ahead beside her loved ones.

Ms. Bertie has asserted herself as an active and conscientious citizen and has earned appreciation for her contributions to the community. Her life and accomplishments are true inspirations to the lives of all those she touches and I am honored that my district is called home by such an outstanding citizen. Ms. Bertie truly understands the value of being not only a New Yorker but an American as well and the entire Bronx community is privileged to count her among its residents.

Madam Speaker, I join to congratulate Ms. Bertie on this birthday milestone and I wish her good health and fortune in the future.

ON INTRODUCING THE 2007 MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH BILLS—THE SUPPLEMENTARY MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE (S-MINER) ACT AND THE MINER HEALTH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, last Friday was the first anniversary of the MINER Act, which the Congress passed last year in the wake of the tragedies at the Sago, Aracoma Alma and Darby coal mines.

Much progress has been made over the last year. For example, thanks in particular to the efforts of Senator ROBERT BYRD of West Virginia, critical funding was provided to help develop new technologies for mining which were thought to be out of reach only a year ago. Funds were also provided to hire additional inspectors for underground coal mines. These funds were well spent, and the investment will save miners lives.

Moreover, implementation of the requirements of the MINER Act, while slower than anticipated, has started to gain traction, as questions about its provisions have been addressed and as this Congress has exercised its oversight authority.

But important as these actions are, they were intended as only a down-payment on what is needed to clean up years of neglect and backsliding by this Administration and an industry that had become, by its own admission, overly complacent. The need for supplemental action is more clear than ever, as too are the details of the supplemental action that is required at this time.

Accordingly, I am joining Chairman RAHALL and others today in introducing new legislation, the Supplementary Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act, or S-MINER Act, to build on our initial accomplishments by taking the next steps.

The S-MINER Act has four basic sections.

The S-MINER Act would supplement emergency response plans. The MINER Act required mine operators to put in place detailed emergency response plans to prevent a recurrence of the tragedies at Sago, Aracoma Alma and Darby. Based on what we have learned over the last year, the S-MINER Act would tighten up some of the requirements to ensure that effective action is taken promptly.

For example, the S-MINER Act would:

In light of technological progress, speed up the dates by which mine operators have to install improved underground communication systems and refuge chambers;

Ensure that requirements on how to seal abandoned areas of a mine, already scheduled to be issued in December of this year, meet recently developed NIOSH recommendations;

Require the 52-year old standard on conveyor belt flammability to be updated consistent with NIOSH recommendations, and ban the practice of ventilating mines with intake air run over these conveyor belts ("belt air"); and

Require the installation of underground gas and smoke monitoring systems, and require miners working alone to carry multi-gas detectors to protect them from otherwise undetectable toxic atmospheres they may encounter.

And the bill would require a study by the National Academy of Sciences of the technology needed to help protect underground miners from the harmful potential consequences of lightning above the mine, the asserted spark that set off the Sago tragedy.

The S-MINER Act would supplement enforcement authority. The MINER Act established some new penalties to encourage mine operators to take mine safety and health requirements seriously and address problems before they become worse. Based on what we have learned over the last year, the S-MINER Act would supplement these actions to enhance their effectiveness.

For example, the S-MINER Act would:

Clarify the authority of inspectors to be free of interference and to issue withdrawal orders in emergencies;

Enhance penalties not adjusted by MINER Act;

Respond to GAG findings of deficiencies in the penalty assessment process; and

Provide MSHA with subpoena power equivalent to that of other agencies.

In addition, the S-MINER Act would establish an independent ombudsman to ensure proper attention to miner complaints of unsafe conditions and to protect whistleblowers from retaliation.

The S-MINER Act would supplement rescue, recovery and incident investigation authority. The MINER Act ensured that prompt notice of serious accidents be provided immediately to the Department of Labor, and that the number of available rescue teams be enhanced. Based on what we have learned over the last year, the S-MINER Act would supplement these actions to enhance their effectiveness.

For example, the S-MINER Act would: enhance mine rescue and recovery operations by providing for a national call center; require timely notice to MSHA of "near misses"; and require mine operators to provide certain logistical support for rescue teams.

The bill would also require the procedures for accident investigations to be standardized, ensures witness coercion and conflict of interests are avoided, and provides for any investigation by MSHA to be supplemented by an investigation of the independent Chemical Safety Board when requested by authorized representatives of miners or families.

The S-MINER Act would revise the respirable dust standards established 40 years ago. MSHA has struggled in the last decade to update badly needed improvements in critical health standards actually set by the Congress in the 1977 Mine Safety and Health Act, and has not been successful. Miners are once again developing symptoms of black lung and other deadly diseases of the past. For miners, this situation constitutes an emergency. Accordingly, the bill would update the rules the Congress set 40 years ago by adopting longstanding recommendations of NIOSH for these rules.

Specifically, the S-MINER Act would: reduce the amount of coal dust to which miners can be exposed in accordance with NIOSH recommendations; require miners be equipped with the new personal dust monitors (PDMs) developed and certified by NIOSH, and authorize miners to adjust their activities to avoid overexposure; and update the procedures for compliance sampling by the Department of Labor and for operator surveillance sampling utilizing the PDM.

The S-MINER Act would also set an independent standard for silica exposure (the current limit is entwined with the coal dust limit) in accordance with NIOSH recommendations.

In addition, Madam Speaker, I am also joining with Chairman RAHALL and others today in introducing the Miner Health Enhancement Act of 2007. As I mentioned, MSHA has struggled in the last decade to update badly needed improvements in critical health standards actually set by the Congress in the 1977 Mine Safety and Health Act, and has not been successful. While the S-MINER Act would deal with the most well-recognized of these issues, there are other 40-year-old health standards established by the Congress that also require attention.

The Miner Health Enhancement Act of 2007 would: require MSHA to use the existing asbestos standard applicable to most American workers under OSHA rather than the weaker standard for asbestos now applicable; require MSHA to utilize the hazard communication standard issued by the last Administration after extensive rulemaking without the amendments adopted early in this Administration that weaken the currency of the scientific information provided to mine workers; and require MSHA to update the list of permissible exposure limits in its air contaminants standard to reflect the recommended exposure limits established by NIOSH.

Last year we acted with urgency but too late; this year, it is our hope to enact needed reforms before the next tragedy occurs. As we focus this year on how to address this country's energy problems, let us not forget to provide for the safety and health of the workers who provide the raw materials that power this economy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
DAIRY EQUITY ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from New York, Mr. REYNOLDS, to introduce the National Dairy Equity Act of 2007, NDEA, which is designed to establish a minimum price for fluid milk and create a market-based safety net for dairy farmers.

I greatly appreciate the men and women who work the extremely hard and long hours needed to produce milk, butter, cheese, ice cream, non-fat dry milk, and yogurt. Thus, I would like to begin by noting that June is Dairy Month. It is hard to overstate how important dairy is to the United States economy, nor for that matter, how important dairy is to the economies of New York and its 23rd Congressional District, which I represent. In fact, in 2006, New York was the Nation's third largest dairy State; it accounted for about 7 percent (638,000 head) of the nation's milk cows, 6.7 percent (12.04 billion pounds) of total milk production, and 6.9 percent (\$1.6 billion) of total cash receipts from milk marketing. The importance of dairy to New York's 23rd District is readily apparent when one considers that the 2002 Census of Agriculture reported there were 1,989 dairy farms with 188,305 milk cows in the 11 counties that comprise the district.

I also appreciate the fact that the Milk Income Loss Contract, MILC, has provided about \$230 million in much-needed support to New York dairy farmers over the past 5 fiscal years and I know my constituent farmers do as well. Moreover, it is critical that the 2007 Farm Bill continue to provide dairy farmers with some form of income support. While I appreciate the support provided through MILC, the NDEA is an alternative that could help to provide additional support to American farmers with greater stability and at less cost to the taxpayer.

The NDEA would establish 5 Regional Dairy Marketing Areas, RDMA; the Intermountain, Midwest, Northeast, Pacific, and Southern. The Midwest, Northeast, and Southern regions would automatically be included as participating regions while the Intermountain and Pacific regions would have the ability to opt into the program.

In each region, a Regional Dairy Board would establish the minimum or over-order price for Class I (fluid) milk; that price would then have to be approved by farmers through a referendum. In the first year, the maximum price that a board could establish is capped at \$17.50 per hundredweight (cwt.), but thereafter the price could rise based on the Consumer Price Index, CPI.

Under the NDEA, when the Class I milk price in the Boston market falls below the established minimum price, processors would pay an over-order premium—the difference between the minimum price set by the applicable Regional Dairy Board and the Boston Class I price—into a national fund. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture would then distribute the monies in the fund back to the Boards according to a formula whereby each region would get back the greater of what they pay

into the fund or the amount of the over-order payments a region would have generated if it had a Class I utilization rate of 50 percent. In the event of a shortfall, the Secretary would supplement the money in the fund from savings from the MILC program to ensure that the Regional Dairy Boards, and subsequently the dairy farmers themselves, would receive the full payments.

The Regional Dairy Boards would be comprised of three members from each participating state in a particular region. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture would make the nominations to the Boards after receiving nominees put forward by governors or elected state agricultural commissioner after consultation with the dairy industry. Each State delegation to the Regional Dairy Boards would consist of 3 representatives, with at least 1 producer and 1 consumer.

In addition to the responsibility to establish minimum prices and distribute payments to dairy farmers, the Regional Dairy Boards would have the authority to conduct supply management programs when necessary, including the development of incentive-based programs. Moreover, in order to prevent over-production, regions in which the growth in milk production is higher than the national average would be required to reimburse the U.S. Secretary of Treasury for the cost of government dairy surplus purchases up to the amount that the region is receiving under the NDEA.

It is important to note that the NDEA would not establish national pooling. Rather, it would create an equalization fund whereby processor paid funds would go to a central account at the U.S. Department of Agriculture; Government funds would be added to that fund and then payments would be made to the various regions according to a formula, which would permit regions with low Class I utilization to receive the same benefit as those regions with higher utilization.

Also of significance, the NDEA would be entirely optional for the States and individual farmers. Thus, those states that do not wish to participate in the NDEA program could simply choose to continue to participate in the MILC program, which the NDEA would extend to 2012, and individual farmers in States participating in the new NDEA program could instead opt to merely continue receiving payments under their current MILC contract rather than under the NDEA. However, those individuals would not be eligible to extend their MILC contract beyond September 2008 and would lose all future eligibility to participate in the NDEA program.

Madam Speaker, the NDEA would create a market-orientated, counter-cyclical program to help all of our Nation's dairy farmers while simultaneously saving taxpayers money. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me to enact this important legislation.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FATAL BEATING OF VINCENT CHIN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American

Caucus, I rise today in remembrance of Vincent Chin on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his attack.

On June 19, 1982, Vincent Chin, a Chinese American, was brutally and fatally attacked by two white men who had recently been laid-off by an American automaker. Blaming their lost jobs on the rise of Japanese car companies, Chin's attackers, mistaking him for Japanese, sought retribution.

Other than residing in Detroit, Michigan, Vincent Chin had no connection to the automobile industry. Vincent Chin, soon to be married and celebrating his bachelor party, wasn't seeking trouble the night of his attack. Chin was attacked and killed simply for being of Asian descent. To add further insult, Chin's murderers charged with, and pleaded guilty to, a mere manslaughter charge. For murdering a man, each received a sentence of only three years probation and a \$3,000 fine—a mere slap on the wrist. Neither killer ever served any jail time.

The attack on Vincent Chin, his untimely passing, and the insulting lack of justice and punishment for his murders galvanized a community that had not previously come together so broadly. For the first time, there emerged a self-defined Asian American and Pacific Islander racial identification that went beyond the progressive college-educated youth and into the working-class segments of the community. Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Filipino; waiters, lawyers, and grandmothers came together with a heightened awareness of the shared experience of racism and discrimination faced by Asian American and Pacific Islanders, regardless of ethnic and socioeconomic background. Twenty-five years after his fatal attack, Vincent Chin remains a contemporary martyr and rallying point for the Asian American and Pacific Islander Movement.

While today is indeed a day to remember and honor the life and death of Vincent Chin, it is also a reminder that hate crimes are not a memory in a regrettable past. Unfortunately, the past twenty-five years remain littered with physical and verbal assaults and murders based in hate. Listed here are a few such acts:

January 29, 1996, Thien Minh Ly, shot and killed in Tustin, California.

October 15, 1998, Kanu Patel and Mukesh Patek, shot and killed in Camp Springs, Maryland.

August 10, 1999, Joseph Iletto, shot and killed in Chatsworth, California.

September 15, 2001, Balbir Singh Sohdi, shot and killed in Mesa, Arizona.

September 15, 2001, Waqar Hasan and Vasudev Patel, shot and killed near Dallas, Texas.

July 30, 2006, Iqbal Singh, stabbed in Santa Clara, CA, My home district.

October 21, 2006, Robert Stanford, Song Sun Lee and Kam Yan Li, shot and killed in San Francisco, CA.

March 16, 2007, Marie Martinez, beaten on an MTA bus in New York City.

Madam Speaker, this small sampling from across this nation shows us that hate crimes remains an issue to be heard and combated by all Members of Congress and all Americans. I applaud my colleagues in the House of Representatives for recently passing the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007, H.R. 1592; recognizing the pervasive and contemporary nature of hate crimes in this

nation. The death of Vincent Chin and the injuries and death suffered by the countless other victims of hate crimes serve as a heavy reminder for this nation to combat hate and continue in its quest for freedom and justice for all Americans.

SCOTT HIGH SCHOOL HONORED
FOR PRACTICING AND PROMOTING
CONSERVATION

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to honor the work of students and advisors at Scott High School in Huntsville, Tennessee for implementing and promoting conservation practices at school and in the community.

Through hands-on experiments and computer-aided instructions, students have learned about alternative energy sources such as solar, wind, nuclear, geothermal, hydroelectric, and fossil fuel technologies. They also took field trips to help foster first hand knowledge of these energy sources. School leadership has plans in the near future to use high school students to teach alternative energy education to grade school students.

With the assistance of a few teachers, students were able to mount solar panels, donated by the Tennessee Valley Authority, near the Agricultural Department's greenhouses to run two exhaust fans and a lighted school sign. During this process, students were involved in all aspects of this activity. They designed battery and solar panel racks, mounted the batteries, wired the inverters and other electrical components, and installed the panels.

Their laudable goals and actions have garnered attention by having been selected to attend the National Youth Awards Program for Energy Achievement sponsored by the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project. The Scott High School energy team will join other winners at the "Kids Teaching Kids Awards Program," in Crystal City, Virginia. The Kids teaching Kids approach encourages students to reach out to their peers and communities and to teach about energy in fun and innovative ways.

There trip to the Washington, DC area will be capped off by attending the NEED Project's National Recognition Ceremonies in Yates Auditorium at the U.S. Department of the Interior. I applaud these young individuals and their advisors for their conservation practices and promoting the use of alternative energy.

TRIBUTE TO MS. KATHRYN WOOD-
BACHER OF PENN YAN, NEW YORK

HON. JOHN R. "RANDY" KUHL, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. KUHL of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of Ms. Kathryn Wood-Bacher as President of the Yates County American Legion Auxiliary in New York. Kathryn has devoted many hours

to serving our veterans as a mental health counselor, making herself available to them night and day, whenever they are in need of assistance.

Recently, Yates County endorsed Kathryn for the position of Seventh District Vice President, and because of her tireless dedication and good work, she will most likely be elected to this office at the New York Department Convention in Niagara Falls this July.

Over the years, Kathryn has served as District Junior Coordinator, Certified Community Emergency Safety Responder, Fifth generation Auxiliary member of the Johnson Costello Unit #355, and of course, Yates County President. Kathryn has selflessly devoted her time to caring for our veterans, our Nation's bravest heroes who have put themselves on the line to defend freedom and democracy, and I am proud to recognize her efforts today.

REMEMBERING FORMER CON-
GRESSMAN ROBIN LEO BEARD,
JR.

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to help remember our former colleague, a distinguished leader and fellow Tennessean, former Representative Robin Beard, who passed away over the weekend. I had the honor of knowing him both professionally and personally.

A former Marine, Robin served twice as assistant secretary general of NATO in Brussels. He and I had several lengthy conversations about NATO and the relationship between that organization and our work here in the House of Representatives. I appreciated his first-hand knowledge into the goals and workings of NATO, and his insights are helpful now as we represent the U.S. Congress at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

Madam Speaker, I hope you and our colleagues will join me and the Tennessee delegation in remembering former Congressman Robin Beard, who made great contributions to our state, our country and the global community.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. TINA PEARSON

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Capitol Guides Service, I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a tribute to Mrs. Tina Pearson of Wilmington, NC. For almost 3 years, Tina has faithfully and exceptionally served as assistant director for training for the United States Capitol Guide Service and Congressional Special Services Office. In this capacity, Tina has assisted in the management of the operations of the day-to-day operations of Visitor Services. In addition, she has developed and implemented training policies for Capitol Guides, worked with the Congressional Leadership on special events, and participated in the plan-

ning of the Capitol Visitor Center. Prior to her work with the Guide Services, Tina worked in my congressional office where she exceptionally performed a wide range of duties including legislative correspondence, intern coordinator, and special events. A former teacher of the year at Eugene Ashley High School in 2003, Tina's love for education, her ability to communicate effectively, and her passion for serving her nation will be our loss. We wish her and her family the best as they move to the next chapter in their lives. In closing, let me enter into the record a poem written by Bert Caswell, one of the Capitol Guide Service employees that capsulates the admiration for a job well done by Tina.

This poem was penned in honor of Tina Peason, of The United States Capitol Guides Service by Albert Caswell. Tina is moving back to North Carolina to be with her family for the most important job one could have . . . to raise a family. We will miss you, Tina. . .

You pulled us up
but, never down!
As in all of us,
but the good you found!
You made us better,
you made us sound. . .
You showed us all how to lead,
as you gave to us all that we need!
All so we could succeed!
All in your quiet grace,
all in your kind and caring face. . .
There for us!
As you cared for us!
For you, we wanted to succeed!
But, when that baby came. . .
I'd knew for sure so soon we'd miss your
name!
For an artist can but paint one canvas at a
time!
And greatest gift to our world to find!
Is to but to give to this our world,
a happy, healthy, and wonderful little girl to
find. . .
Who will grow up to be, a treasure in our
world you see!
Marleigh . . . Marleigh
Our loss is now but your fine gain. . .
A wonderful Mother to love you, and paint
your life scenes!
And Tina, today as you leave,
look back, on Freedom's face a tear you'll
see!
You pulled us up!

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS OF TITLE IX OF THE
EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF
1972 AND RECOGNIZING THE
NEED TO CONTINUE PURSUING
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, throughout this Nation's history there has been an undeniable struggle to insure that the American dream of liberty and justice for all becomes the American reality. For the current reality is one of a country tainted with prejudice; a country in which discrimination based on race, sex, and class permeates every aspect of our society. Still, throughout history there have been those

who have fought with courage and conviction for justice and equity, and it is because of them that we as a Nation have progressed.

The late Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink is one such person. Today I rise in support of H.R. 406 which celebrates the accomplishments of Congresswoman Mink and the passage of Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments. Title IX, also known as the Equal Opportunity in Education Act, prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in the administration of education programs.

Congresswoman Mink, a courageous champion of women's rights, once declared, "All persons regardless of their sex, must have enough opportunities open so that they can contribute as much to their lives and this society as they can." Mink served 12 terms in this House representing Hawaii, and throughout those 12 terms, she was steadfast in her commitment to social justice. Due to her stalwart conviction, Title IX and its enactment are responsible for increased educational opportunities for women and girls. As such, among women, high school graduation rates have risen to 85 percent, those earning bachelors degrees have reached 26 percent, and employment opportunities are ever improving. It is because of Title IX that our country's women and girls are able to pursue their dreams without the hindrances of institutionalized oppression. As a result of Title IX, our women are able to learn, grow, and thrive unapologetically.

It must, however, be noted that despite this undeniable progress, there still remains much work to be done. H.R. 406 enumerates the numerous arenas in which women must still battle for fair and equitable treatment. To this day, women are still victims of sexual harassment in the workplace, salary inequality in comparison to their male counterparts, and limited access to career opportunities in the fields of math and science. Let us not become complacent and find solace in the status quo, as true equality has yet to be attained.

The 35 years since enactment of Title IX can be lauded as 35 years of progress. We must continue to commemorate the legislatures and the legislation that propel our country forward. We must continue to work towards a future in which social ills such as bigotry and sex discrimination are of the past. Let us take pride in what has been accomplished by pioneers such as Congresswoman Mink while continuing the fight for equality, justice, and the realization of the American dream.

TRIBUTE TO ANNETTE ROLLE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a woman who has dedicated her life to the service of others, Annette Rolle. Soon, she will retire after 37 years at the Cedars Medical Center located in Miami, FL. Ms. Rolle has served our community with great distinction, and for her years of service, we in South Florida are immeasurably thankful.

During Ms. Rolle's 37 years at Cedars Medical Center, she worked as a CRCS Technician, as the Assistant Director of Central Services and as the Central Services Manager.

She made it her mission to provide a higher standard of care for people in need. Ms. Rolle did all of these things out of her genuine care for people. She provides blood pressure screening to members of her church and encourages others to donate blood and become organ donors.

Her commitment to service is not only evident in her professional life but in her personal life as well; Ms. Rolle has been a faithful member of Greater New Bethel Baptist Church, where her Pastor has been Reverend Dr. G. David Horton, for over twenty years. She serves as a member of the Pastor's Aide, Mission Ministry, Ushers' Ministry, Nurses' Guild and Sunday School Ministry.

Annette Rolle is the wife of the late Steven L. Rolle Jr., the proud mother of two beautiful daughters, Alesia Evans and Stephanie S. Rolle; and the exuberant grandmother of La'Nesia Smith. Her extended family includes three stepchildren, Judy, Vonn, and Steven Rolle III.

Annette Rolle's compassion and concern for those less fortunate in our community are virtues that we all should aspire to. Ms. Rolle is a person of character, who saves lives both inside and outside of the hospital. Her life is an example to both young and old that living a life of purpose is the greatest achievement. She has given herself tirelessly to her church, community, and profession. Annette Rolle is a courageous spirit and is deserving of our accolades.

On behalf of a grateful community, I salute Annette Rolle. Now, in retirement, she embarks upon a new journey, and I wish her every happiness and success.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 155, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day. "Juneteenth" is celebrated annually on June 19th to recognize the full emancipation of slaves in the State of Texas. President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves across the country on January 1, 1863. Unfortunately, slaves in Texas did not feel the effect of this monumental decision until 2½ years later. The Emancipation Proclamation had little effect on African Americans in Texas due to the minimal number of Union troops that were present in Texas to enforce the new executive order.

The Union troops led by General Gordon Granger landed in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865. Upon General Granger's arrival there was massive resistance from the slave owners, regarding the presence of Union troops in the State. Despite much opposition, Union forces soon became strong enough to influence and overcome that resistance. Granger said, "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property be-

tween former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

Madam Speaker, the injustice that was committed against the African American slaves held captive against their will was immense, as was the injustice committed against those held past the captivity date. Had General Gordon and his troops not taken the initiative to make the trip to Texas, there is no telling when these slaves would have realized their freedom.

I am compelled to recognize the historical significance of "Juneteenth" because the monumental date of June 19, 1865 represents the realization of freedom and justice for all. This date symbolizes the genius of our country's struggle to bring about a more perfect union, a struggle that continues to this very day. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support and recognize the historical significance of the Juneteenth Independence Day.

HONORING THE LONG-TERM RESOURCE MONITORING PROGRAM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center Long Term Resource Monitoring Program (LTRMP) for the Cooperative Conservation award they received from the U.S. Department of Interior.

Established in 1986 through the Water Resources Development Act, the LTRMP plays a key role in the Environmental Management Program. It is implemented by the United States Geological Survey office in Onalaska, Wisconsin in cooperation with five Upper Mississippi River States: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

This model partnership of Federal, State and local agencies is an integral part of research done on the Upper Mississippi River System and a prime example of teamwork.

Congress recognized the Upper Mississippi River System as both a nationally significant ecosystem and a nationally significant commercial navigation system. Accordingly, the mission of the Long Term Resource Monitoring Program is to provide decision makers with the information needed to maintain the Upper Mississippi River System as a viable multiple-use large river ecosystem. The long-term goals are to understand the system, determine resource trends and impacts, develop management alternatives, manage information, and develop useful products.

The LTRMP, through six remote State-operated field stations, has provided critical data collection, analyses, research and modeling of the environmental components of vegetation, water levels and quality, fishes and invertebrates. It was one of the pioneers in geo-spatial information systems, documenting land use and land cover mapping and analysis. This data is vital for planning, design, and assessment of restoration and rehabilitation projects. It is the LTRMP that provides a knowledge base for effective, cost-efficient habitat projects and then documents their success.

The LTRMP continues to be the most consistent, comprehensive large river monitoring program in the world. More than 200,000 data observations have been collected to evaluate important short- and long-term changes associated with ecological components of the UMRS.

On multiple occasions, I toured this amazing facility and witnessed the ongoing and award-winning research. I am proud to have it not only in my district, but in my hometown.

THE OMNIBUS AUTISM HEARINGS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about the Omnibus Autism Hearing which started on June 11, 2007, down at the U.S. Federal Claims Court here in Washington, DC. At issue are the 4,800 claims against the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program filed by parents of autistic children who believe, as I do, that thimerosal—the mercury-based preservative in vaccines—caused their children's disorders.

There are many people in our health agencies, in the pharmaceutical industry and here in Congress who say that there is no the scientific evidence linking thimerosal and autism. However, during my tenure as chairman of Government Reform Committee (1997–2002), and as chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness (2003–2005), I chaired numerous hearings examining the alarming increase in autism in this country over the last several decades. In the 1980s, roughly one in 10,000 American children was diagnosed with some kind of autism spectrum disorder. Today that number has risen to 1 in 150. I believe, as do many credible scientists and researchers, that the clear correlation between the dramatic rise in the number of autism cases, and the rapid expansion of the childhood vaccination schedule during that 20-year period, points to the mercury-based preservative thimerosal—routinely used in pediatric vaccines during the period—as a contributing factor to our country's literal epidemic of autism. In fact, I firmly believe my own grandson became autistic after receiving nine shots in 1 day, seven of which contained thimerosal. In fact, Dr. Bernard Rimland—founder and director of the Autism Research Institute—testified before the committee that classic autism, (noticeable from birth) has largely been replaced by late-onset or “acquired autism”; a form of autism in which children are born normally developing but later regress into autism in the second year of life. He was one of the first to point to environmental insult through vaccine injury as a possible leading contributing factor.

The truth is that since the initiation of my vaccine investigation, two schools of science have evolved leading to two very different conclusions. The first, largely funded by the Centers for Disease Control, consist of epidemiological evaluations in Denmark that look at medical files in individuals who developed autism and deciding whether or not thimerosal exposure was more predominant in the autism patients. Those who have focused solely on the epidemiology research have concluded

that there is no relationship between vaccine injury and the onset of autism. However, once published, these studies were discovered to have many methodological flaws. For example, using individuals in Denmark did not provide a true comparison to the U.S. vaccine schedule, and by the CDC's own admission, the study could not really provide any true conclusion as to whether or not a subset of the population—because of vaccine exposure to mercury or some other vaccine injury—developed autism.

The second school of research has conducted so-called “hard” science; providing objective measures through laboratory and animal research. For example, Dr. Hornig at Columbia University replicated the thimerosal exposure in vaccines in a mouse study and discovered mice exposed to thimerosal had both behavioral and biological responses—displaying autism like behaviors and exhibiting white matter changes in the brain that were measurable. Other laboratory research has shown that thimerosal exposure affects the protective sheath of the neurofibrils in the brain as well as the IGF-I molecule. And Dr. Jill James at the University of Arkansas has shown that thimerosal exposure affects the methylation process—the mechanism used to regulate genes and protect DNA from some types of damage.

The most recent hard science study to be published is from Dr. Burbacher, a leading expert on mercury, who investigated the different affect methyl mercury and ethyl mercury had on primates. He found that ethylmercury—the form of mercury in thimerosal—stays in the brain (doing more harm) than methylmercury.

The bottom line is that mercury is a base element and the most toxic substance known to science outside of radioactive materials; and each of these hard science studies, and more, show that it is biologically plausible for mercury exposure in vaccines to cause the onset of autism and provide tantalizing pieces in the puzzle about how.

My support for the link between thimerosal and autism, especially in open congressional hearings has caused many people to throw around the accusation that I am “anti-vaccine.” My response to that is that vaccines are the only medications that are mandatory for Americans to receive and as such we have an even greater obligation to ensure that they are as safe as possible. In addition, experience tells us that, as with any other epidemic, while there may be underlying genetic susceptibilities, there usually is some type of environmental trigger as well, such as a virus, fungus, exposure to heavy metals, pollutants, or whatever. There has never, to the best of my knowledge, been a purely genetic epidemic. So, genetics alone simply cannot explain how we went from 1 in 10,000 children with autism spectrum disorders 20 years ago to 1 in 150 today.

No one has ever identified a positive health benefit to mercury in the human body. Thus, it was sound public health policy to eliminate mercury from thermometers, blood pressure gauges, light switches, cosmetics, teething powder, horse liniment, hat-making materials, smokestack emission, and mining operations. It would also be sound public health policy to eliminate mercury from all vaccines.

But Madam Speaker, getting the mercury out of all vaccines is only the first step. We also have a responsibility to help all of the

children who have already been injured by mercury in vaccines. That is why the outcome of the Omnibus Autism Hearing is so critically important. In the 1980s, Congress creating the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program to shield medical professionals and vaccine manufacturers from liability if an individual suffered an adverse event from receiving vaccines. The compensation fund, which currently contains about \$2.5 billion, is financed by a tax on pediatric vaccines. We created VICP to protect the vaccine supply and to insure that all who were injured by a vaccine would receive compensation in what was supposed to be a no-fault, easy to use manner. Congress intended for families to be compensated quickly and fairly; and when the evidence was close as to whether or not the medical condition in question was vaccine related or not—as is the case with thimerosal—the court should always err in favor of the injured. But over the years the system has broken and what was supposed to be quick and fair has become slow and contentious; which is why today 4,800 families are fighting in court to be heard. They have waited a long time for their day in court and I am pleased that the court is providing the transcripts online quickly and that audio streaming on the internet is being provided for the thousands of families who are not able to travel to Washington and actually be in the courtroom during the proceedings.

As the Omnibus hearings proceed, I hope that all of the evidence regarding vaccine injury will be received by the courts and given a full and fair review. I believe the families of these autistic children deserve to be compensated for their vaccine injury as Congress intended when it created VICP. I believe the science is there to prove this case and I am hopeful that the court will agree and at the end of this arduous process these 4,800 families will finally get justice.

ARC FUNDING

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, “a rising tide,” President Kennedy told us, “lifts all boats.” And so one of President Kennedy's legacies was created in 1965 with a unique mission to serve a unique part of the Nation, the Appalachian region.

Historically, the counties of Appalachia have “faced high levels of poverty and economic distress resulting from geographic isolation and inadequate infrastructure.”

It was with these concerns in mind that ARC was created and it is these concerns ARC has been addressing vigorously for the past 40 years.

Take for example the area of transportation, a major focus for ARC. ARC was developed, in part, because of the severe isolation experienced in Appalachia and that in order to develop Appalachia and give its people an opportunity to compete, a system of highways was needed. Enter the Appalachian Development Highway System, which was created to serve the transportation needs of Appalachian residents by assisting in the construction of highways so critically needed by Appalachian communities for economic growth and development.

The ADHS now encompasses over 3,000 miles of Appalachian highways and nearly 85 percent of those roads are complete or under construction. The ADHS is truly a success story for ARC and all of Appalachia. Despite the Presidents recent budget, which requests eliminating funding for the Appalachian Development Highway System, it is my strong conviction that this program be continued at the agreed upon level set forth in SAFETEA-LU.

If Members review a recent report, entitled, *The Potential for an Uncontrolled Mass Evacuation of the DC Metro Area Following a Terrorist Attack: A report of Survey Findings*, by West Virginia University, it becomes readily clear that the ARC's development highways will critically serve another national purpose in times of "mass spontaneous evacuations," particularly from here, Madam Speaker, our Nation's Capital. This may surprise many, but about 83 percent of the people here plan on probably leaving, and 88 percent of those plan on leaving by car.

Without doubt Appalachia, West Virginia, in particular, must be ready to handle such future fateful events. The ARC can be a catalyst in preparing for such an eventuality, but they do not have the resources, nor the mandate to fulfill this function. I hope this lone call, will signal, first the need, and secondly the will, of this Member of Congress, that we need full partners in the federal government to work with ARC and other appropriate agencies to plan for evacuations now rather than some distant day.

ARC has also been a responsible steward of the federal funds it has received over the years. For example, in FY 2006, across all investment areas, each dollar of ARC funding was matched by \$3.14 in non-ARC public project funding, and each ARC dollar invested leveraged \$11.55 in private investment in ARC projects over time.

And while a major focus of ARC remains on highways and Appalachian transportation infrastructure, as the times have changed so has ARC.

As much of the United States has been able to take advantage of the technological boom of the late 20th and early 21st Centuries, Appalachia once again is in danger of being left behind and unable to compete in the global marketplace.

In the most recent FCC data on high-speed connections for Internet access, released on January 31, 2007, you can track the Appalachian mountain range by just how spotty the provider coverage is on the FCC's provider map. In fact, West Virginia is significantly below the average in broadband use nationwide.

Again, ARC is there to offer significant support, bringing broadband access to our communities, which is essential to leveling the playing field and giving our communities an opportunity to compete. Schools, businesses, local governments and individual homes all have benefited from ARC involvement in the expansion of broadband access in Appalachia, and continue to do so.

I have been working with ARC, private telecommunications companies, and local economic development leaders to bring broadband technology into southern West Virginia. For example, through the E-commerce training initiatives being offered by ARC and others we are working to connect local small businesses to broadband, opening doors to

Internet sales and services that just weren't there a couple of years ago.

It is ARC's ability to serve its mission by adapting its actions to fit the times that makes ARC such an invaluable resource to Appalachia and the Nation. From the Appalachian Development Highway System to the E-commerce and broadband initiatives, ARC continues to serve its mission by advocating for and partnering with the people of Appalachia to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life.

I applaud the efforts of Federal Co-Chair Anne Pope who, as a native daughter of Appalachia, executes so well the mission of ARC in each of Appalachia's communities. I have said this before and am happy to do so again on the record, Anne is one of the finest Federal Co-Chairs to ever serve the people of Appalachia and I look forward to our continued strong relationship serving the needs of southern West Virginians, together.

I strongly support ARC, its mission and the incredibly successful initiatives it has undertaken to better the lives of the people of Appalachia and West Virginia. It is why I signed a bipartisan letter of support for increasing the funding which the ARC receives, which I request be included in the RECORD, and I continue to support strong and robust funding to maintain the vision which President Kennedy laid before us, some 40 years ago.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, April 24, 2007.

HON. PETER VISLOSKEY,

Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, House Committee on Appropriations, Washington, DC.

HON. DAVID HOBSON,

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, House Committee on Appropriations, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN VISLOSKEY AND RANKING MEMBER HOBSON: We respectfully request that you include funding in the amount of \$75 million for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in the Fiscal Year 2008 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill.

Since 1965, the ARC has contributed significantly to improving the quality of life for the 23 million Americans in the Region by working closely with its federal, state, and private sector partners and local communities.

As Representatives from Appalachia, we see first hand the successes that have resulted from the ARC's economic development initiatives. For example, the Region's poverty rate has been cut in half, the infant mortality rate has been reduced by two-thirds, the high school graduation rate has increased by over 70 percent—comparing favorably with the national average, and the Commission's initiatives have helped create approximately 1.6 million jobs.

We are requesting this modest increase to help the ARC address more aggressively the Region's infrastructure deficiencies and the continuing human capital and leadership deficits which result in concentrated areas of poverty and unemployment. Over the last ten years, funding for the ARC has remained level at around \$65 million and the Region continues to receive less federal assistance per capita than the rest of the country.

The ARC has been a responsible steward of the federal funds it has received over the years. For example, in FY 2006, across all investment areas, each dollar of ARC funding was matched by \$3.14 in non-ARC public project funding, and each ARC dollar in-

vested leveraged \$11.55 in private investment in ARC projects over time.

With the advent of the global economy, the ARC faces more complex and profound challenges while third world conditions still exist in the Region and require the Commission's continued focus. For example, according to a recent analysis completed by the University of North Carolina Environmental Financing Center, the counties in the Region require estimated investments of \$11.4 billion to meet current drinking water needs and \$14.3 billion for wastewater needs. This is substantially more than the funding that is currently available from combined state and federal programs. Without basic infrastructure, economic development, and improvements in the overall quality of life, the Appalachian Region will continue to lag well behind the rest of the nation.

Currently, the rural areas in the Region lag behind the nation in access to cable modem and DSL services and other forms of high speed internet access. We know the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure throughout the Region has become an absolute necessity if Appalachians are going to compete in the national and global economies. Today's globalization comes with a higher threshold for success: high technology jobs rather than manual labor, college education rather than basic literacy and the need for modern telecommunications infrastructure to facilitate economic development.

Despite the impressive accomplishments of the ARC, the 410-county Region still faces a complex set of economic and social challenges and will need continued support from Congress if the Commission's goal for the Region—socio-economic parity with the rest of the nation—is to be reached.

Looking to the future, the ARC expects to capitalize on the Region's abundant energy assets to promote job creation in the energy sector with energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives as well as with conventional fuels.

Appalachia's future remains at risk. Therefore, on behalf of the citizens in the Region we urge you to support a funding level of \$75 million for FY 2008. We believe this level will allow the agency to continue its important work to improve the quality of life in Appalachia, particularly in the poorest and most underdeveloped counties.

Thank you for consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Zack Space, David Scott, David Davis, Heath Shuler, Michael A. Arcuri, Lincoln Davis, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Spencer Bachus, Rick Boucher, Charles A. Wilson, Phil English, Shelley Moore Capito, Tim Holden, Christopher P. Carney, Ed Whitfield, Hank Johnson, Jr., Jason Altmire, Paul E. Kanjorski, John J. Duncan, Jr., Nick J. Rahall, II, Brian Higgins, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Geoff Davis, Chip Pickering, and Phil Gingrey.

Members of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 18, 2007, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 499 through 501. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all of these amendments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 15, 2007, I missed votes because I had left Washington, I attend my son's swearing in to the California State Bar. I rise today to enter into the record how I would have voted had I been able to vote.

House rollcall vote 466. I would have voted "no" on the McHenry Amendment to the Foxx Amendment, which failed by a vote of 108-300. This amendment would have resulted in a 50 percent cut to the General Counsel's office.

House rollcall vote 467. I would have voted "yes" on the Foxx Amendment, which would have reduced funding of the Office of the Secretary by \$1.241 million.

House rollcall vote 468. I would have voted "yes" on the Fallin Amendment to reduce Office of the Secretary funding by \$138,000.

House rollcall vote 469. I would have voted "yes" on the Drake Amendment, to provide \$9.1 million for the 287(g) program, which trains and supports local law enforcement to enforce immigration laws, and reduces the Under Secretary for Management by \$10.4 million.

House rollcall vote 470. I would have voted "yes" on the King of New York amendment, which would provide \$40 million for domestic nuclear detection office.

House rollcall vote 471. I would have voted "no" on the Brown-Waite amendment to provide an additional \$89.125 million for border fencing and technology because the bill fully funds the President's \$1 billion request.

House rollcall vote 472. I would have opposed the Burgess amendment that would have cut the Under Secretary for Management by \$15 million and fund the Secure Flight program because the Administration has no plan for this program's operations and privacy protections.

House rollcall vote 473. I would have supported the Ferguson amendment which would have cut the Under Secretary for Management by \$50 million and increase Buffer Zone Protection grants, doubling funding for the program.

House rollcall vote 474. I would have supported the McHenry amendment to cut Under Secretary for Management and increase Citizenship and Immigration Services immigration processing by \$30 million.

House rollcall vote 475. I would have voted "no" on the Pearce Amendment. The amendment would cut aviation explosive investment by \$125 million and increases Customs and Border Protection by a like amount. This amendment would delay security improvements to detect explosives at airports and in air cargo. This bill already contains record numbers of border patrol agents and border protection funding.

House rollcall vote 476. While I support border fencing, I would have opposed the Carter Amendment. The amendment would eliminate the following requirements—State, local and Federal consultation on border fencing; a 15-day public notification of environmental waivers; and a good-management expenditure plan for the \$1 billion provided in this bill for

border fencing and technology. As a Representative of a border community, I have strong concerns about eliminating the requirement the Department consults with border communities and states when constructing fencing.

House rollcall vote 477. I would have voted "no" on the McCaul Amendment, which would eliminate the requirement to certify the cost effectiveness of unmanned aerial vehicle use at the borders before additional ones may be procured.

House rollcall vote 478. I would have voted "yes" on Amendment No. 105, offered by Rep. King (IA). The amendment would provide an additional \$5 million for Immigration and Customs Enforcement to promote an employment eligibility program, bringing the total to \$35 million.

House rollcall vote 479. I would have voted "no" on the Bilbray Amendment. The amendment would provide \$150 million additional funding to REAL ID, when there was already \$50 million in the bill.

House rollcall vote 480. I would have voted "no" on the McCaul Amendment (No. 99), which would strike a provision in the bill to limit funding in this or any other bill until pending litigation on the human resource system is resolved.

House rollcall vote 481. I would have voted "no" on the Rogers (KY) Amendment No. 2. The amendment would cap the number of aviation screeners at 45,000.

House rollcall vote 482. I would have voted "no" on the Poe Amendment. This amendment would require people traveling to and from my District and Canada to have a passport and would not allow the Department of State to implement an alternative passport document.

House rollcall vote 483. I would have voted "yes" on the LaTourette Amendment to restrict funding in the Act from implementing the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative before June 1, 2009. I strongly support not allowing the administration to implement WHTI before 2009 because the Administration has failed to report on how it will implement the program in a way that does not affect trade and protect the privacy of my constituents.

House rollcall vote 484. I would have voted "no" on the Tancredo Amendment, which would restrict funding in the Act from implementing the Visa Waiver program, a program with 27 countries today.

House rollcall vote 485. I would have opposed the Tancredo Amendment No. 7 which would block State and local communities from receiving grant funding if they are found to be acting in contravention of the law that States and locals cannot prevent the sharing of immigration information with the Federal government. Neither DHS nor the Department of Justice has ever found this to have happened.

House rollcall vote 486. I would have voted "no" on the Royce Amendment that would require all \$1 billion in the bill for border fencing and technology only for two layers of pedestrian fence.

House rollcall vote 487 I would have voted "no" on the Forbes Amendment which would eliminate the ability to extend Temporary Protected Status granted victims from war-torn countries.

House rollcall vote 488. I would have voted "no" on the Rogers (KY) Amendment. The amendment would eliminate the Davis-Bacon

prevailing wage requirement in the bill. Our contract workers deserve to be paid a prevailing wage and I strongly oppose this amendment.

House rollcall vote 489. I would have voted "no" on the Rogers (KY) Amendment No. 1. The amendment would reduce funding in the bill across-the-board by 5.7 percent, or a total of \$2.1 billion.

House rollcall vote 490. I would have opposed the Republican Motion to Recommit on this bill.

House rollcall vote 491. I would have voted "yes" on final passage of the Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations bill, which includes \$1 billion for border security, funding for an additional 500 agents on the northern border, and reverses cuts made by the administration to critical first responder grant programs.

House rollcall vote 492. I would have voted against the Hayes Amendment, which would cut \$30 million, or 15 percent, from the NATO Security Investment Program.

House rollcall vote 493. I would have voted for the Blumenauer/Brown-Waite Amendment to cut \$201 million from the BRAC 2005 account and increase the BRAC 1990 account by \$50 million. There is currently a \$3.5 billion backlog in environmental clean up projects necessary as a result of previous BRAC rounds. This amendment ensures that we continue to make progress on rehabilitating old bases.

House rollcall vote 494. I would have voted "no" on the Price Amendment to cut \$50 million from the BRAC 1990 account, which funds old environmental clean up programs. The amendment would then increase VA medical services funding by \$22 million. The bill already includes \$28.9 billion for veterans' medical care, the largest increase in the history of the VA.

House rollcall vote 495. I would have voted "yes" on the Moran Amendment. This amendment would have increased the beneficiary transportation account by \$10 million.

House rollcall vote 496. I would have voted "yes" on the Garrett Amendment to add \$10 million to the State Extended Care facilities account. As I represent the Jacobetti Veterans Home in Marquette, MI, I have been a strong supporter of veterans' homes.

House rollcall vote 497. I would have voted "yes" on the Musgrave/Salazar amendment to prohibit the Army from studying the possible expansion of the Pinon Canyon maneuver site, a training site in Colorado.

House rollcall vote 498. I would have voted "yes" on the final passage of the 2008 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, which included the largest increase in VA funding in U.S. history.

A TRIBUTE TO W. HORACE
CARTER

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, on April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson took the field as a member of the Brooklyn Dodgers baseball team and broke the color barrier as the first African American to play in the major leagues.

His courage, determination, and integrity have served as an inspiration to generations and opened the door for thousands to play our national pastime. Rightly, our Nation recently stopped to celebrate the 60th anniversary of this historic milestone.

However, as many know, the practice of discrimination and racism continued many years after Mr. Robinson's historic first game. Indeed, there were other courageous individuals who joined in the fight for equality and justice for all.

One such man was W. Horace Carter of Tabor City, North Carolina.

On a July night in 1950—thick with heat and the humidity of the Deep South—Horace Carter watched as Ku Klux Klansmen made their violent way through his hometown. One hundred Klansmen, in 29 cars, robbed and terrorized this small community of farmers and merchants with threats of racism.

Although just 29 years old and the new publisher, editor, and newsman for the Tabor City Tribune, Carter knew this was his moment of decision.

He said, "I searched my soul that evening and on into the next week. Was it worth sacrificing our happiness, shattering the tranquil life of running a little newspaper in a small town and taking part in Red Cross Drives, church covered dish suppers, and the Annual Yam Festival promotion just because I believed in a principle? Was it worth the risk that the print shop might be burned, our home dynamited? I could be dragged from our house with the frantic screams of my family ringing in my ears. I might suffer a brutal lashing by a band of masked hoodlums or even death if I dared to oppose them. Is it the time to stand up for principles even before I am fully aware of what this Klan proposes? I didn't want to sound pious or self-righteous, but I reasoned that if I were ever to campaign against this Klan reorganization, I should do it from its inception. That was now. I sat down at my used fifteen-dollar Royal typewriter and with my experienced hunt-and-peck typing style, and I wrote an editorial."

Thus began a 3-year crusade against the Klan in the editorial pages of this small Southeastern North Carolina newspaper. Carter's courage, determination, and words helped in the convictions and prison time for Ku Klux Klansmen. For his conviction of doing the right thing, Mr. Carter catapulted the Tabor City Tribune into national prominence, which received the Pulitzer Prize for Meritorious Community Service, the most prestigious of the Pulitzers.

Madam Speaker, Jackie Robinson once said, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on others' lives."

Although Mr. Robinson did not know W. Horace Carter, there is no doubt that his words were about persons just like him.

Mr. Carter's life has continued to be one of honor, leadership, and service. He was elected Mayor of Tabor City in 1954 and was judge in the weekly city court. He has served as President of the Tabor City Chamber of Commerce, Tabor City Rotary Club, Columbus County Economic Development Commission, County Library Board, Tabor Industrial Development, Inc., Tabor City Recreation Commission, and a Sunday School teacher in the Baptist church.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a World War II Navy

veteran, Mr. Carter and his wife Lucille have three children, Rusty Carter, Linda Carter Metzger, and Velda Carter Hughes.

May God's blessings continue to shine upon this most special man and his enduring legacy.

HONORING CONGRESSIONAL
AWARD GOLD MEDAL WINNERS

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Congressional Award Gold Medal winners from in and around Florida's 16th Congressional District. I am honored to celebrate the achievements, initiative and service of these exceptional youths. The youths honored earlier today earned the Congressional Award Gold Medals through substantial achievements in voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition/exploration.

Earlier today, I had the honor of presenting many of these young men and women with Congressional Award Gold Medals. Earning a Congressional Award Gold Medal requires integrity of character, a strong work ethic, and a drive to succeed. These students have already developed strong leadership skills and have proven that they can achieve any goal they set their mind to. The medalists honored today and all students working to earn a medal should be commended for their hard work and commitment to our community.

Tonight, I congratulate these outstanding Florida youth on their achievement.

Alexandra Campbell, Cardinal Newman High School, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Alexandra utilized her love for volleyball to achieve several of her goals, including acting as an assistant volleyball coach and improving her technique.

Elizabeth Davis, Palm Beach Gardens High School, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Lizzy was a member of her high school's varsity Volleyball, Soccer and Softball teams and will play on the soccer team for the University of Alabama, where she will be a freshman in the fall.

Lauren Dobry, Cardinal Newman High School, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Lauren volunteered her time at a local hospital, working full-time during the summers. She also participated in fundraiser events for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Jordan A. Dulcie, Suncoast Community High School, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. As a member of the Boy Scouts of America, Jordan participated in the many outreach activities and leadership building opportunities available through his Boy Scout Troop.

Rachel Gossens, The King's Academy, North Palm Beach, FL. Rachel's interest in boating led her to read boating manuals and navigation books and to undertake a 10-day boat trip to the Bahamas.

Lindsey H. Green, Suncoast Community High School, Jupiter, FL. Lindsey dedicated her time to helping others through her local hospital, nursing homes and several health-related volunteer organizations.

Ray Hosaka, Jupiter Community High School, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Ray's inter-

est in science led him to volunteer his time to the community by monitoring and measuring the water quality in the Loxahatchee River.

Bianca Kahlenberg, South Fork High School, Stuart, FL. Bianca volunteered at the American Red Cross in Martin County.

Christopher Leddy, South Fork High School, Stuart, FL. Chris worked hard for the Martin County Red Cross to complete his hours of community service, enjoying his time so much he joined the Red Cross on a camping trip as his expedition.

Melissa Leddy, South Fork High School, Stuart, FL. Melissa's passion for dance and cheerleading helped her attain her goals. She attended a cheerleading and dance camp and earning a varsity letter for cheerleading.

Andrea Ramos, Stuart, FL. Over the last 4 years, Andrea has given more than 500 hours of voluntary public service to the American Cancer Society.

Devon Rosecan, American Heritage, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. For his expedition, Devon lived with a family on a Navajo reservation for 10 days. He fully participated in the activities of the family and the tribe.

Ryan W. Royce, Suncoast Community High School, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Ryan spent over 600 hours playing Varsity Football to achieve his physical fitness goal. He used his athletic talent as a youth coach for both football and basketball.

Joseph R. Russo, Jr., Cardinal Newman High School, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Joey honed his political skills through his Key Club by running for both FL District Governor and International Trustee.

Andrew Sisko, Cardinal Newman High School, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Drew was a Varsity starter in both lacrosse and soccer. He was named an All League "honorable mention" and twice named on the "first team" for lacrosse.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF NATIONAL CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House is considering today, my resolution H. Con. Res. 148, recognizing the significance of Caribbean-American Heritage month. This resolution acknowledges the contributions of Caribbean-Americans from the inception of our country to the present and it is my hope that my colleagues in the House and the Senate will join me in celebrating this strong, rich history.

Alexander Hamilton, Hazel Scott, Sidney Poitier, Jean Michel Basquiat, Eric Holder, Colin Powell, Edwidge Danticat, Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, Sidney Ponson, Maryse Condé, Harry Belafonte, Sidney Poitier, Roberto Clemente, Celia Cruz, and former Congressman Mervyn Dymally, are just a few of the many Caribbean-Americans who helped shape American government, politics, business, arts, education, science, and culture, and are joined by modern day figures like Alicia Keys, Lenny Kravitz, Bobby Cannavale,

Cameron Diaz, Wyclef Jean, Elizabeth Vargas, Esmeralda Santiago, and Miguel Piñero.

One outstanding Caribbean-American was former Congresswoman Shirley Anita Chisholm. My political career began as a volunteer in her historic Presidential campaign in 1972. Chisholm was the first African-American woman to serve in Congress, the first African-American and the first woman to campaign on a major party ticket, an advocate for civil rights and equal rights, and a daughter of the Caribbean. Her tenacity and principled nature are inspirations to us all.

While we've been fortunate to have Caribbean Americans serve in Congress, it's important for us to realize that Caribbean Americans reside throughout our Nation.

Oftentimes, Congress will focus on "hot spots" in the Caribbean—such as Cuba and Haiti, and forget that we have many constituents with roots from Jamaica to Trinidad and Tobago and from the Dominican Republic to Guyana. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee's subcommittee on Foreign Operations and the bi-partisan Caribbean Caucus, I believe it is of vital importance to monitor and shape policies to improve relations with our Caribbean neighbors throughout the region.

I'd like to thank my colleagues who brought this legislation forward, particularly Congressman John Tierney, and his staff Kevin McDermott, who helped move the resolution through the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. On that note, I'd also like to thank Chairman Henry Waxman and the rest of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for expeditious consideration of this resolution.

I'd like to close by mentioning that this resolution could not have come to the floor of this House at a better time, as members of the Caribbean Community, or CARICOM, are gathering here in Washington, DC, for their conference, which will run through the rest of the week. Heads of State and other leaders of the many nations that are part of CARICOM, representing the nations of Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as nations that are Associate Members and Observers of CARICOM. It is my hope that this conference will not only allow these nations to help move the Caribbean as a whole, forward, but also provide the opportunity for us to meet with and discuss issues important to growing the relationship between the U.S. and the nations along our Third Border.

I ask all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this measure to honor the Caribbean-American community.

A TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN GIST

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brooklyn banker and businessman Jonathan Gist. Jonathan was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He is a graduate of Thomas

Jefferson High School and attended City University of New York's Baruch College for 2 years.

Jonathan Gist enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps following college and was trained as a Weapons Specialist. He was later promoted to Staff Sergeant, and after 4 years of service received an honorable discharge. After leaving the military, Jonathan moved to Wall Street taking a job with Dean Witter, Reynolds.

Jonathan Gist's Wall Street experience was the catalyst for him to launch a career into the banking industry. In 1985 he joined one of the major players in banking, Citibank. Today he remains a part of the Citibank team where he is employed as a Bank Manager.

Jonathan Gist is also a caring community activist. He has been working with the Beacon Program for the past 10 years. This program occupies the time of children once they leave school for the day with such activities as sports, tutoring and arts and crafts. Jonathan is also a part of the organization Green Thumb that assists local residents in beautifying their neighborhoods with plants, flowers, and trees.

Jonathan Gist has taken charge of his neighborhood as the President of the Schenck Avenue Block Association. In this capacity he ensures that area children have a place to play, learn to grow plants, and are escorted on educational field trips.

Jonathan Gist is the third child of four children and has been married to his wife Darlene for 20 years. Together they have five children; Jonathan, Jr., Justin, Jamel, Jalen, and Jhkia.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Jonathan Gist who has been unselfish and caring with all of the members of our community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Jonathan Gist.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BAKER HIGH SCHOOL ON WINNING THE 2007 6A GIRLS' SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Baker High School on winning the 2007 6A Girls' State Softball Championship.

Baker High School's girls' softball team won the 6A State softball championship, giving the Honeybee's their third title in the past 6 years. The win also gave Baker its 79th victory of the year, breaking its State record for wins in a season.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Baker High School on a great season and their State softball championship. This school deserves public recognition on this great honor, and I extend my congratulations to each member of the team and coaching staff:

Baker High School Team: Kandace Breeland, 12th; Natalie Charles, 12th; Kelsey Donaldson, 12th; Meghan Harbuck, 12th; Amber Hester, 12th; Jenny Laird, 12th; Monica Meadows, 12th; Krista Rodden, 12th; Jessica Rodgers, 9th; Samantha Shelley, 11th; Jennifer Turner, 9th; Meghan Wallace, 12th; and Head Coach Tony Scarbrough.

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT GRADUATES OF THE D.A.R.E. PROGRAM FROM ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL IN WESTWOOD, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, last week, the Township of Washington and Borough of Westwood Police Departments held a D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony. More than a dozen students in Mrs. Munsch's Fifth Grade Class at Zion Lutheran School have been participating in this important program that gives young people the support they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. It uses positive peer pressure to help children defeat the negative cultural influences that bombard them daily. I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program in Westwood, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship: Jerome Ashby; Melody Ashby; Kara Dawson; Rachel Diomedea; James Douglas; Katherine Federov; Jessica Fitzner; Jordan Gregg; Chester Lee; Rebekah Orso; Cassandra Petricca; Stacie Rinda; Emily Thomas.

A TRIBUTE TO MARC GRANT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brooklyn businessman and immigration advocate Marc Grant. Marc came to New York from Guyana, South America in the late 1980s while he was still a small child. His parents had come to the U.S. in previous years.

Marc Grant attended George Wingate High School in Brooklyn and upon his high school graduation he entered Brooklyn College. After leaving college he decided to pursue a career in retail. However, Marc was bitten by the entrepreneurial bug and in 1994 he launched his very own business, MagMa Distribution, named after both he and his mother, distributing detailing supplies to auto bodyshops and carwashes. The company became extremely profitable with sales of \$125 million.

Marc Grant decided to get out of the auto detailing distribution business and launch another business, the Success Connection Team. The Success Connection Team is a seminar company that educates people in North America on ways they may increase their net earnings of up to \$600 per month without working any additional hours. These seminars also inform clients of the tax breaks passed by Congress for small home-based businesses as well as assist organizations and individuals in reaching their financial goals.

Marc Grant has experience in both traditional and non-traditional business ventures. He is a highly sought after public speaker and

the former host of the Success Connection Team radio program.

Marc Grant gives back to his community in his role as Marketing Director for the "By-Ways and Hedges Real Life Times Immigration Newspaper." His work with the paper is an attempt to bring more awareness to the issue of immigration. Marc believes that everyone who comes to this country should have his quality of life or better. A motto he has passed on to his young son Marc, Jr.

I would like to recognize Marc Grant, who has been unselfish in sharing his business skills and knowledge with all members of our community.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Marc Grant.

CALLING ON UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL TO CHARGE IRANIAN PRESIDENT WITH CERTAIN VIOLATIONS BECAUSE OF HIS CALLS FOR DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 21, a resolution calling on the United Nations Security Council to charge Iranian President e.g. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad with violating the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the United Nations Charter because of his calls for the destruction of the State of Israel.

The 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide defines genocide as, among other things, the act of killing members of a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group with the intent to destroy the targeted group.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has repeatedly made inflammatory and hateful comments regarding Israel, including direct statements calling for the destruction of Israel, an act of genocide. In 2005, he called for Israel to be 'wiped off the map' and led a group of students in chants of 'death to Israel'. Furthermore, the Iranian president has questioned the history of the Holocaust, an insult to the millions of men and women who perished as a result of that genocide.

These comments are not only hateful and unacceptable, but his comments threaten the security of Israel. As Iran funds, trains, and openly supports terrorist groups, including Hamas, Hezbollah, and Islamic Jihad, that are determined to destroy Israel, Ahmadinejad's words raise concern on Iran's intentions. We must send a clear message to Iran and its President: we condemn your dangerous and reckless remarks.

As a member of the United Nations, the President of Iran's comments violate U.N. rules and must be dealt with decisively by the United Nations leadership and all those in the Security Council.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York, Mr. Rothman, for his hard work on this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to call on the United Nations Security Council to hold Iranian

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad accountable for his intolerable words that call for the destruction of the State of Israel.

IN RECOGNITION OF "BIG CHUCK" SCHODOWSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize "Big Chuck" Schodowski for over 40 years of laughter, and to celebrate his considerable contributions to Northeast Ohio.

In 1960, Chuck Schodowski joined the staff of WJW as an engineer, passing up an appointment to the Cleveland Police Department. Shortly thereafter, Chuck befriended Ernie Anderson and began making appearances on his late night show, Ghouardi. In 1966, when he teamed up with "Hoolihan" Wells, "Big Chuck" found his true calling—making people laugh.

Through the next ten years, the Hoolihan and Big Chuck Show entertained Cleveland with an array of characters and skits. In 1979, "Lil' John" Rinaldi took over for Hoolihan and ushered in a new era of hilarity.

For the last 28 years, the Big Chuck and Lil' John Show has celebrated the rich cultural history of Cleveland with its unique brand of humor and fabulous cast of characters. As the Kielbasa Kid, Cuyahoga Jones, or any other of his many characters, Big Chuck has never failed to delight Clevelanders.

Big Chuck is an Emmy winner, a member of the Broadcasters Hall of Fame, and the recipient of countless awards. He truly is a living legend.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring "Big Chuck" Schodowski for a lifetime spent entertaining Northeast Ohio and celebrating our rich cultural diversity.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. LOUIS D. CAMILIEN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor Dr. Louis D. Camilien. Dr. Camilien, a Brooklyn transplant, is a native of Haiti. While his parents remain in the country where he was raised, Dr. Camilien migrated to the U.S. and has lived in Brooklyn since 1979.

Dr. Camilien began his medical career while still in his native country of Haiti, graduating from State University of Haiti Medical School. He later performed obstetrics and gynecological training at Kings County and Downstate Hospitals in Brooklyn.

Dr. Camilien has become extremely active in the community since coming to Brooklyn. He is a mentor for doctors at Downstate; testifies for the Student Loan Forgiveness program; and he is the vice-chairman of the Brooklyn Prenatal Network which addresses maternal child disparages and high infant mortality rates in Bedford Stuyvesant, East New York and Brownsville.

Dr. Camilien has been an advisor to elected officials in the matters of maternal children since 1992. He counsels mayors and state officials in Albany, New York on issues involving maternity care. Dr. Camilien is also the past president of the Brooklyn Gynecological Society and has been named one of the best doctors in the New York for several years.

Dr. Camilien currently resides in Manhattan and has two sons, Garvey and Stanley.

I would like to recognize Dr. Louis Camilien as one of New York's most respected physicians.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Louis Camilien.

RECOGNIZING BEN MIDGETT FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO MOBILE COUNTY AND SOUTHWEST ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize Ben Midgett on more than three decades of dedicated service to southwest Alabama.

Ben recently transferred from the DuPont Mobile site to the DuPont DeLisle site in Pass Christian, Mississippi. After joining the Mobile Plant and Shell Company in 1977, as a process technician, Ben's first role was as an operator. Two years later, Ben had an opportunity to move to the site laboratory where he remained for 8 years. Here his emphasis was on environmental analysis.

As Federal regulations changed and focus shifted to environmental impact, Ben's expertise made him an integral part of DuPont's environmental team. Because of Ben's knowledge and expertise, he was promoted to public affairs manager at the DuPont DeLisle site.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Ben Midgett for his years of service to Mobile County and southwest Alabama. I know Ben's colleagues, his family, and his many friends join with me in praising his significant accomplishments and extending thanks for all of his efforts at making Alabama a better place.

COMMENDING THE STAFF OF THE WEST MILFORD POST OFFICE FOR EARNING THE STAR DESIGNATION IN THE OSHA VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAM

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the hard-working staff at the U.S. Post Office in West Milford, New Jersey. This post office is the first in North Jersey to earn the STAR designation, demonstrating their dedication to promoting the health and safety of its staff. And, today, in a special ceremony at the post office, they will be recognized for their commitment to the well-being of the men and women who work there.

The more than 26,000 residents of West Milford and their neighbors in surrounding communities rely on the post office for services from passport needs to mail delivery. Like most towns today, the mailman has become more than just a person in our neighborhood; he has become an integral part of the overall community. Under the able leadership of their Officer in Charge, Emil Cimorelli, the men and women who work at the West Milford Post Office have lived up to a high standard of excellence and community service. And, the special designation for which they are being honored today demonstrates that this excellence carries through not only to the customers of the facility, but also to the staff there.

A TRIBUTE TO HARVEY MASON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a masterful drummer and an all around great musician, Mr. Harvey Mason. Harvey Mason was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He began taking formal drum lessons at the age of 7, playing in school bands and finally buying his first drum set at age 16. Harvey Mason's talents were so captivating that an Atlantic City club owner obtained a special license allowing the teenager to play at the club hassle free.

Harvey Mason continued his education at Berklee School of Music, later going on to the New England Conservatory of Music and studied performance, composing, arranging, percussion and mallets on a full scholarship.

Harvey Mason toured Europe with the great Errol Garner before moving with his family to Los Angeles. He played with George Shearing and did one semester of practice teaching at Hoover High School in Glendale to complete his Bachelor's of Arts Degree. In 1986, Harvey went to Southwestern Law School and in 1988 to UCLA.

Harvey Mason's precision time keeping and versatility have placed him as one of the most in-demand and most recorded session drummers of all time. He has been hired by a host of recording artists including: Barbara Streisand; James Brown; Herbie Hancock; Reba McIntyre; Sergio Mendes; and the London Symphony Orchestra.

Harvey Mason signed a 5-year deal with Clive Davis at Arista Records in 1976 as a solo artist. There he recorded 5 stylistically diversified albums that captured the complete arc of his musical artistry. These albums showcased the writing, arranging, and performances by both A-list artists and gifted newcomers including: Earth, Wind and Fire; Kenny Loggins; and Marvin Gaye. He has also composed songs recorded by artists ranging from Donald Byrd to the Brothers Johnson. He added to his credits a television commercial for Mattel Toys and a percussion piece for Quincy Jones' "The Color Purple."

Harvey Mason is a founding member of the contemporary jazz group Fourplay, using this as a platform to flex his writing, playing and arranging skills with partners Bob James, Nathan East and Larry Carlton who later replaced Lee Ritenour.

The accomplishments of Harvey Mason are many. It is difficult to sum them all up in such

little time. However, today, though I cannot list them, I would like to recognize all of those achievements.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderfully gifted musician.

WELCOMING OLDRICH KULHÁNEK
TO CHICAGO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome the world-renowned artist, Oldrich Kulhánek, to my home city of Chicago to exhibit his drawings and prints.

Mr. Kulhánek's work is displayed in Chicago's Art Institute, the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, Prague's National Gallery and in more than twenty other of the world's most prestigious museums.

Mr. Kulhánek's dedication to his work came at a high personal cost. His conviction that "the artist should reveal the pretence (or lies) of the establishment, unmasking what is happening to man a showing how man is manipulated and dehumanized" led to his arrest in 1971 by the Czechoslovak Secret Police. He was accused of "disgracing the representatives of communist countries," with depictions of Josef Stalin in many of the prints he created from 1968 through 1971—an offense that led to a charge of sedition.

Mr. Kulhánek spent a month in jail on this charge, and he was interrogated every 14 days for 2 years afterward. Although the laws under which he was charged were revoked by the president, his work was not immune from the government's hand.

In a scene the artist has described as "Kafkaesque," eleven of his prints stood trial in a Prague Local Court and were sentenced to destruction. He was forbidden to show his work or to collaborate with publishers. Despite this artistic exile he continued to create. Many of his pieces were shown illegally under a pseudonym or smuggled to European countries for exhibition.

But today the Czech Republic celebrates Oldrich Kulhánek. He was commissioned to design the new Czech Banknotes, and was one of the principal designers of new Czech stamps, including one depicting President Václav Klaus.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to welcome Oldrich Kulhánek to Chicago and I thank him for his fine work and commitment to art and freedom of expression.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN
RINALDI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Rinaldi, for the gift of over twenty-five years of laughter and community service to Northeast Ohio.

After graduating from Ohio State University, John moved back to Cleveland and began working at Cowell and Hubbard Jewelers. He

soon met Dick Blake who, recognizing John's comic talents, introduced him to "Big Chuck" Schodowski. "Big Chuck" invited John to do guest spots on his late-night Hoolihan and Big Chuck Show. In 1979, the Big Chuck and Lil' John Show was born when Hoolihan moved on, and a local legend was born. For the ensuing twenty-eight years "Lil' John" has delighted Northeast Ohio with his unique wit.

Hardly one to contain his exuberance, "Lil' John" has volunteered countless hours of community service to and has helped raised funds for local organizations. John has won numerous accolades for his commitment to Northeast Ohio's success.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Emmy Award winner and Broadcaster Hall of Fame inductee "Lil' John" Rinaldi. His humor has been an invaluable gift to Northeast Ohio, and his efforts to create a healthier and more vibrant Northeast Ohio are appreciated by all.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND IDA R.
MIRANDA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Ida R. Miranda. Reverend Miranda is a woman who has always placed her faith and confidence in the Lord.

Reverend Miranda was born in Corentyne, Guyana, South America, the ninth child of Richard Leonard and Rosalind King. She received her education in Guyana and went on to work as a teacher in Guyana Public Schools.

Reverend Miranda and her husband, Frank Miranda (deceased) migrated to the United States in 1962. She proceeded to continue her education attending Elizabeth Seton College and graduating with an Associate's Degree in Accounting. In 2000, she earned a Bachelor's Degree from the College of New Rochelle and a Certificate Degree from the New York Theological Seminary. Reverend Miranda was employed by A&T Importers for 25 years and she later worked for the James A. Cole Company.

Reverend Miranda is a longstanding member of the historic Berean Baptist Church of Brooklyn. It was there she was ordained a minister and where she currently serves as an Associate Minister. She is a Senior Sunday School Teacher and sits on the Board of Trustees. Reverend Miranda loves to work with children and for many years has served as a counselor for the Berean Youth Lay League.

Reverend Miranda served on the Board of East New York's Diagnostic and Treatment Center as well as the Board of Leadership Council which offers assistance to the Cypress Day Care Center. In addition to her ministry, Reverend Miranda serves as the Treasurer of my Women's Caucus and volunteers her time as a Tax Aide for the AARP Foundation.

Reverend Miranda is the mother of Marcelle, Mark, Pamela and Paul and a proud grandmother of five.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize all of the good works of Reverend Ida R. Miranda who believes in her community and

works tirelessly both in the U.S. and Guyana to further her ministry as a wise and caring counselor to all.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful woman for her kindness and compassion.

CONGRATULATING PRESA COMMUNITY CENTER FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Presa Community Center on 30 years of outstanding service to the Southside community of San Antonio.

In 30 years, the Presa Community Center has grown from a small collaborative effort between five local churches able to lend a hand to a few needy families to an organization with the ability to help hundreds of people daily. The Presa Community Center has successfully developed multi-faceted programs for our community, including educational enrichment programs for students, emergency food and clothing assistance for families, free tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Program, and many senior programs like coordinated transportation to medical appointments, activities and food assistance, just to name a few.

Just in the past year, Presa Community Center has developed three innovative programs to provide additional services to the community of South San Antonio. One is Project Drive to Live which takes court officials directly into the classrooms with senior and junior high students to address underage drinking and driving under the influence. The second program is designed to keep fourth through sixth grade students in school by building a support network for children and their parents with volunteer mentors and staff. The third program brings the services of the Presa Community Center directly into the community by teaming up trained volunteers with families in need to help locate available resources and become financially stable.

The successes of the Presa Community Center are a result of effective partnership with many community organizations and local governments including United Way, University of Incarnate Word, Presa Real, San Antonio Independent School District, Alamo Area Council of Governments, Warm Spring Rehabilitation Hospital, and San Antonio City and Bexar County officials.

Congratulations to the Presa Community Center and all of the partners that have been vital to the development of this community resource. As a resident of South San Antonio, I would like to thank the Presa Community Center, its partner organizations, and all the hard working staff for their 30 years of dedication to the community and I look forward to many more years of continued work in our community.

SBA VETERANS' PROGRAMS ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2366, the SBA Veterans' Programs Act of 2007. This legislation will assist our soldiers when they return home with opportunities and information about starting a small business.

More than a million and a half men and women have answered the call to serve their country since 2001. They interrupted their careers, put their families economic security at risk, and face big personal challenges upon returning home.

I recently visited Iraq and Afghanistan. That trip gave me an even greater appreciation for the significant sacrifices our soldiers must make and must cope with for the rest of their lives. If our soldiers faced mortal danger every day abroad, let us help them have economic security when they return home.

It isn't just the veteran who makes the sacrifice, their families do as well: their parents, their spouses, their children, girlfriends and boyfriends and siblings. They give up so much in defense of our country.

It is our job, as Members of Congress, to make sure that our Nation lives up to its commitment to our veterans. It is a simple pact we have made with our troops—and one we are obligated to fulfill: after they have sacrificed to serve our country on the battlefield, we must do all we can to serve them here at home. The cost of any war must include caring for the warrior.

This legislation helps our veterans get started with business opportunities in their communities. It does so by providing grants, information services, and personal assistance to help veterans evaluate business opportunities; increasing the number of veteran business outreach centers around the country, and encouraging further assistance to women veterans.

Countless soldiers are returning from their tours of duty with new confidence and skills developed during their time in the military. This SBA program will help to ensure that those new abilities are put to good use when they return to civilian life.

This bill because it is the right thing to do for those who have given so much but also because it will directly impact Vermont and every state around the country. Ninety-seven percent of all Vermont firms are small businesses. My office has been involved in helping the Vermont Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) run business readiness classes for veterans. The Vermont SBDC is the primary small business assistance resource sought out by small business clients, lenders, government agencies and other economic development partners. The Vermont SBDC is the keystone in a statewide business assistance infrastructure tying together all appropriate resources and serving as a "one-stop" gateway and clearinghouse to serve small businesses' needs. Drawing on collaborative relationships among service providers, Vermont SBDC leverages economic development resources of all kinds for advancement of small businesses, growing the local economy.

Roughly 6 percent of deployed soldiers have small businesses depending on them. Veterans face a number of unique challenges, from increasing lengths and number of deployments overseas, to translating their military experience into business ventures. Yet, there is a lack of substantive programs to help these businesses survive through deployment, and to assist veterans returning home. This program is designed to meet current, real-time needs of people on active duty in business who now need to leave for protracted periods, or for those who have just come back and really "need" to do something new with their lives.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2366.

A TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS
MCARTHUR NELSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor to the work and achievements of Douglas McArthur Nelson. Douglas, a Brooklyn transplant, is a native of Eau Gallie, FL. Upon his arrival to Brooklyn, he attended Junior High School in East New York, Brooklyn, and was later recruited by New York City Public School's legendary football coach Moe Finkelstein at Thomas Jefferson High. Douglas was the star running back on the varsity team that won the P.S.A.L. He was later a starting fullback for 3 years at the University of Iowa.

Douglas McArthur Nelson began his career in law enforcement for the Iowa Department of Corrections and Parole. He transferred those skills to Crisis Intervention, Addiction Counseling, and Juvenile Habilitation. He was able to enhance his talent for leadership during his 20 years of active involvement in church and community services in both Cedar Rapids and Iowa City.

Douglas McArthur Nelson returned to Brooklyn 16 years ago and has continued to fulfill his mission for human services in Crisis Intervention, Addiction and Substance Abuse Counseling, Employee Mentoring, Coaching and Leadership Development for a large treatment facility.

Douglas McArthur Nelson currently serves as the Program Director for the Berean Community Family Life Center, BCFLC, which was created as a non-profit community development corporation by the historic Berean Baptist Church in Brooklyn.

Douglas McArthur Nelson left the private sector in July of 2006 to work for the Berean Baptist Church's First Lady Angela Farr Griffin, the Executive Director of the BCFLC and Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr., who is the President of American Baptist Churches, Pastor of Berean and President of the BCFLC's Board of Directors. Douglas is the Chairman of the Deacon Ministry of Berean Baptist Church and is active with the Men's Caucus for the Unity Democratic Club.

Douglas McArthur Nelson is strong, gentle and devoted husband to Lynn and father of Ruperta, Denise, and Adrian. His 5-year-old granddaughter has lovingly dubbed him "the weakest link." He is an avid gardener, poet, and artist.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Douglas McArthur Nelson for his contributions to our community and for his years of service at Berean Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Douglas McArthur Nelson.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, today is World Refugee Day, a day of honoring the courage and raising the plight of more than 8 million refugees and 23.7 million internally displaced persons around the world. This year, on the sixth anniversary of the United Nations-designated World Refugee Day, organizations in hundreds of countries will come together to focus global attention on those refugees who have been displaced by natural disasters or were forced to leave their homes, native countries, and loved ones due to the political, ethnic or religious oppression and persecution they would have faced otherwise.

The United States historically has led efforts to assist various refugee populations, as exemplified through U.S. efforts to assist Vietnamese refugees in the late 1970s. Now, in the 21st century, the U.S. has a particularly compelling reason to focus on the Iraqi refugee crisis. Approximately 2 million Iraqi refugees have fled persecution, violence, threats of kidnapping and death threats, mostly moving to Syria and Jordan. The threats have been dire for ethnic and religious minorities. At least 1.9 million people are displaced within Iraq. Many of these 3.9 million have been targeted due to their work for the U.S. Government, NGOs or the media.

There have been important steps taken in Congress to address the concerns of refugees related to Afghanistan and Iraq, such as encouraging the provision of special immigrant status for translators or interpreters serving with Federal agencies in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, since 2003, the U.S. Government has allowed only 466 Iraqi refugees to enter the U.S. It is important that the U.S. initiate more active measures to assist these refugees, such as increasing the number of Iraqis that are brought into the resettlement program. During a recent trip to the Middle East, I heard stories of Iraqi refugees and the dire threats that forced them to flee their homeland.

Madam Speaker, in addition to spotlighting the situation of Iraqi refugees, it is vital that the international community continue to shine a spotlight on the situation facing refugees from and displaced persons in Burma. The military dictatorship continues its campaign against the ethnic peoples through forced labor, the use of rape as a weapon of terror, destruction of food sources, destruction of over 3,000 villages in the last few years, and the use of ethnic peoples as human land mine sweepers. Unfortunately, certain countries believe it is in their interest to keep this regime in power—I would heartily disagree. The refugee and displacement crisis in Burma could be resolved immediately if the regime were to step down and allow the rightfully elected leaders of Burma to take office.

World Refugee Day is a day for the international community, governments and citizens alike, to show our common concern for refugees and displaced persons. Most people in the world would love to stay in their homeland, but frequently conflicts and other situations force them to leave. Our country was founded by people fleeing oppression. The U.S. must continue to be the global leader in refugee protection in the Middle East, in Southeast Asia, and around the world.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT "RED" PENSINGER

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Robert "Red" Pensinger, former mayor of Greencastle, PA. Mayor Pensinger passed away in his home on Saturday, June 16. Born in Marion, PA, on February 22, 1933, Mayor Pensinger spent his life in the Greencastle area as a civic leader and successful businessman.

"Red," as he was lovingly called, brought great enthusiasm and esteem not only to his office as mayor, but to his many other activities within the community as well. Robert dedicated his life to the betterment of his community, giving his time and energy to various organizations. He influenced and mentored hundreds of young people through his participation in the Boy Scouts of America, of which he was a Scout master, and Kauffman's Little League team, which he managed. Members of the community also looked up to "Red," recognizing and appreciating his devotion to the town, his positive outlook and pleasant demeanor.

The former mayor was also a leader in business, establishing a State Farm Insurance Agency in Greencastle in 1965 and leading it to become the largest agency in Pennsylvania and the fifth largest in the Nation. He served in the State Farm President's Club and was a six-time Legion of Honor winner. In addition to operating his insurance agency, Robert served as vice-chairman of the board of directors for Tower Bancorp Inc. and the First National Bank of Greencastle. He served on the Chamber of Commerce, which awarded him with the 1997 James P. Oliver Award for his leadership and community involvement.

While I could go on listing the countless organizations and people to whom "Red" gave his time and energy, it is safe to say that his contributions to the Greencastle community are endless. Robert touched the lives of thousands and impacted each one of them tremendously. Mayor Pensinger served as a role model for many, and it is my hope that those who were lucky enough to know him will continue his legacy and enthusiasm for bettering the community and the lives of others.

Robert's wife, Nancy, and his family and friends are certainly proud and honored by his remarkable work and devotion to improving the lives of others. His community service and achievements are remarkable, and his presence will be sorely missed. Robert Pensinger was a celebrated leader in business and the community, and words cannot express his value to the people of Greencastle or their love and devotion to their late mayor.

A TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN COREY PEGUES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the work and achievements of Captain Corey Pegues. Corey, born and raised in Queens, New York, was a student of the public school system. He graduated from high school in 1986, and subsequently enlisted in the United States Army.

As a member of the Army, Corey assumed the position of Medical Specialist after receiving training at Fort Sam Houston. Corey was assigned to a Calvary Unit in Fort Drum, New York, and remained there until his honorable discharge in 1991. After leaving the U.S. Army, he enlisted in the New York State National Guard, and remained with the National Guard for 14 years. As an example of Corey's devotion to civil service, he also decided to enroll in the New York City Police Academy while still serving in the National Guard.

Corey was able to maintain the same exceptional quality of work that has defined his career, while serving in both the National Guard and the New York City Police Department. The NYPD promoted Corey to the rank of Sergeant in 1998, and Lieutenant in 2002. Captain Pegues assumed many positions within the NYPD, including Lieutenant Platoon Commander, Special Operations Lieutenant and Administrative Lieutenant.

In 2006, the NYPD once again promoted Corey; this time, to the rank of Captain. After 11 months, Corey was transferred to a new police station where he now serves as Commanding Officer. For the past two years, in addition to his role as a law enforcement official, Captain Pegues has also served his community as an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice at Monroe Community College.

Corey also serves as the President and Founding Member of the Long Island Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives—a nationally recognized organization that consists of many chapters across the country.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the work of Captain Corey Pegues for his constant desire to protect and serve the citizens of the United States.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Captain Corey Pegues.

BINGE DRINKING AND LEGAL AGE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, in 1984, President Reagan signed the 21 minimum drinking age into law, saying "This problem is bigger than the individual States. It's a grave national problem, and it touches all our lives. With the problem so clear-cut and the proven solution at hand, we have no misgiving about this judicious use of Federal power. I'm convinced that it will help persuade State legislators to act in the national interest to save our children's

lives, by raising the drinking age to 21 across the country.”

Now, there are some that are advocating—lowering the drinking age back to 18. These people are unfortunately choosing what is easy over what is right and what is effective.

It would be easy to allow 18 to 20 year olds to drink, but we would pay for it with lives. The Centers for Disease Control, CDC, looked at 49 high-quality, peer-reviewed studies of places that changed their drinking age and found conclusively that moving the drinking age up to 21 decreases alcohol-involved crash fatalities by 16 percent and lowering it increases fatalities by 10 percent.

New Zealand is a good example of this. In 1999, New Zealand lowered its drinking age from 20 to 18. Not only did the alcohol-involved crash rate increase among 18 and 19 year olds, but also among 15 to 17 year olds. It is absurd to think that this would not happen in the United States were we to take the easy path.

It would be easy to think that teaching young people to drink would increase responsible drinking habits, but what is easy isn't what is true. Most European countries with lower drinking ages have not only higher drinking rates, but higher binge drinking and intoxication rates. Several of these countries, like the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Canada, are considering increasing their drinking ages because the 21 minimum drinking age is so effective.

It would be easy to assume that 18 to 20 year olds could drink safely, but in truth, all underage drinking is unsafe drinking. Brain research shows us that the brain continues to develop into the early twenties. The part that controls reasoning and cognitive ability is the last to mature and thus the most vulnerable to damage. The part of the brain responsible for new memories is noticeably smaller in youth that abuse alcohol. Alcohol use in the teen years also is associated with decreased brain functioning, memory, movement, and attention, and these changes may be permanent.

These and many more reasons are why a host of experts, including the CDC, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, General Accounting Office, Institute of Medicine, Surgeon General, National Institute of Health, and more, support the 21 minimum drinking age.

It is necessary for us as legislators, parents, and responsible citizens to take the hard path and prevent our young people from accessing alcohol—adults facilitate, by selling, giving, providing, or allowing youth access to alcohol, almost all underage drinking. It is necessary to set limits, not open the liquor cabinets. And it is necessary for us as leaders to ignore those who think you can try the same experiment twice and get less fatal results.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMEMORATING WORLD
REFUGEE DAY 2007

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, since 2001, people across the globe have come together on June 20 to show their support for the millions of refugees throughout the world who

have fled their homes for fear of persecution, imprisonment or even murder. On this sixth anniversary of World Refugee Day, we make a solemn pledge to these courageous and resilient people that their plight has not gone unnoticed and they do not stand alone.

In April, I led a congressional delegation to Sudan and saw, first-hand, the effects of one of the worst refugee crises facing our world today. In Darfur, I saw mothers and fathers struggling to provide for their children's most basic needs—necessities we often take for granted, such as food, water, clothing and shelter. I saw people fighting to overcome years of physical and mental abuse so severe that they would rather wander the desert than remain in the torturous environment their homeland had become. And I saw things that made me wonder how the world could stand silent while suffering of this magnitude continued.

With more than 686,000 refugees, Sudan is now ranked as the third largest refugee crisis in the world, according to the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, falling behind Iraq, where sectarian violence has created 1.5 million refugees—1.2 million fled the country in 2006 alone—and Afghanistan with 2.1 million. And it comes as no surprise that Sudan, Iraq and Afghanistan now also rank first, second and eighth, respectively, on the Foreign Policy Index on Failed States, which was released on Tuesday.

When people are forced to flee from their homes, they leave behind more than just material possessions; they often must trade their dignity, self-respect and hopes for the future for their very survival. And it is not just the refugees themselves that suffer. The instability and mortal dangers that create refugee crises threaten the safety and security of entire regions, if not the entire world.

On this World Refugee Day, I am proud to join with the defenders of human rights who are calling on each of us to not only acknowledge the tragedies suffered by refugees across the globe, but who are also challenging us to step up and do something about it.

A TRIBUTE TO CHAMBERLAIN S.
PETERSIDE, PH.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and achievements of Chamberlain S. Peterside, Ph.D. Chamberlain is the CEO and founder of the New Era Capital Corporation, a New York City-based financial services group. Chamberlain worked previously as a Certified Financial Manager with Merrill Lynch, Global Private Client Group and HSBC Bank in New York City, where he assisted high net-worth clients and institutional investors in developing strategies for managing their portfolio.

Chamberlain graduated with a Ph.D. in Finance and Economics from Friendship University in Moscow. He carries with him more than 15 years of diverse business development, management consulting and financial advisory experience from his work in Africa, Europe and the United States.

Upon graduation, Chamberlain began his career as a business consultant in his own

firm, Value Adding Consulting Group, Inc, with offices located in both Moscow and London. He advised domestic and foreign companies on the intricacies and modalities for expanding their operations in the new markets of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Chamberlain received the “40 Under 40” achievement award in June of 2001 from the Network Journal in New York for outstanding academic, professional and community service accomplishments. He has also served as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Finance and Business Management at ASA Institute of Business Management and Advanced Technology.

Currently, through New Era, Chamberlain is instrumental in developing and financing multi-million dollar telecommunication, hospitality, real estate, and oil and gas industries in Africa. He writes on many economic issues in regard to business development, and has appeared on the CNN program “In the Money,” where he discussed the need for a new approach in regard to economic reform efforts in Africa.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the work of Chamberlain S. Peterside, Ph.D. for his countless academic and economic accomplishments. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Chamberlain S. Peterside.

IN TRIBUTE TO GERALD WALLACE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an artistic leader and playwright from the Fourth Congressional District, Gerald Wallace. Mr. Wallace was instrumental in diversifying and enriching Milwaukee's artistic offerings by interjecting the voice of Milwaukee's African American artistic community. A prolific playwright, Mr. Wallace created works that reflected the full range of African American experience in this country.

Mr. Wallace fulfilled his childhood dream when he founded the People's Theater. He created a 20-seat theater in a building located in the heart of the African American community through funds raised by providing evening studio performances in private homes. He expanded understanding of and appreciation for African American theater by both the actors and the audience with performances by People's Theater throughout the city and the State of Wisconsin.

Mr. Wallace provided opportunities and mentored anyone interested in performing or learning other aspects of theater operation. He trained novices in speaking, projection, stage movement, and taught them to explore the depths of their characters in order to present a realistic portrayal on stage. Mr. Wallace exposed Milwaukee to the rich traditions of African American theater with the appearance of legendary actress Claudia McNeil, who performed with the People's Theater in James Baldwin's classic play, *The Amen Corner*. Many theater actors and actresses from Milwaukee began acting or honed their skills at the People's Theater. In fact, the founder of Milwaukee's African American Children's Theater had her genesis at the People's Theater.

Mr. Wallace introduced students in Milwaukee Public Schools to theater through performances that involved both music and student participation. After observing his work in the community, Adolph Suppan, the former Dean of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Fine Arts, hired Mr. Wallace to provide community outreach through work with the People's Theater.

In later years, Mr. Wallace expanded his artistic interests by founding and operating a gallery showcasing the works by African American artists. Further, he provided classes to aspiring artists; for example Gullah basket weavers from South Carolina taught classes at his gallery. Mr. Wallace passed away on June 11, 2007; his influence and impact will be sorely missed in Milwaukee.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Gerald Wallace and his contributions to the artistic culture in the Fourth Congressional District.

THE GENERATING RETIREMENT OWNERSHIP THROUGH LONG-TERM HOLDING ACT OF 2007

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I, along with Congressman ARTUR DAVIS and Congressman JOSEPH CROWLEY, introduce today the Generating Retirement Ownership Through Long-Term Holding ("GROWTH") Act of 2007. This important bill gained the bipartisan support of 73 House colleagues in the 109th Congress. We introduce this important legislation in an effort to address one of the issues making it difficult for today's working investors to save for retirement.

Most of our Nation's mutual fund shareholders report that retirement is the primary purpose for which they are saving. More than 31 million American households are saving through taxable mutual funds, either to realize a greater return on their savings, to supplement their employers' retirement plans, or because they do not have access to such plans. Seventy-two percent of fund investors say that their primary goal is to save for retirement. At the same time, almost half about 75 million of 155 million workers—are not offered any form of pension or retirement savings plan at work.

Mutual fund investors are overwhelmingly middle-income Americans investing for the long term. For many of these investors, mutual funds are the low-cost, professionally managed, diversified way in which they are saving on their own for retirement. Currently, investors who buy shares in a mutual fund and hold for the long term find themselves taxed as they go—even though no fund shares were sold and no income was received. This legislation allows mutual fund shareholders to keep more of their own money working for them longer by deferring capital gains taxes until they actually sell their investment. The "GROWTH" Act makes it easier for these individuals to meet their goals and enjoy a secure retirement.

Those investors who opt in advance to leave capital gains generated by the fund manager reinvested in the fund are doing what so many of us want to see—they are holding

for the long term, contributing to national savings, and building up their own retirement nest egg.

The GROWTH Act will encourage Americans to save more and to save for the long term to better prepare for a secure retirement. I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort and cosponsor this legislation.

SBA ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, Congressman ALBERT WYNN (D-MD) reached out to my office regarding becoming a co-sponsor of H.R. 2359, The SBA Entrepreneurial Development Programs Act of 2007. While we are unable to list Congressman WYNN as a co-sponsor since H.R. 2359 has already been placed on the Union Calendar, please know I consider Mr. WYNN a strong supporter and a co-sponsor of my legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO GAIL REED-BARNETT, ED.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the work and achievements of Gail Reed-Barnett, Ed.D. Dr. Reed-Barnett was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. From a young age, Gail's parents made certain that she understood the value of an education, a lesson that she would carry with her throughout her life.

Dr. Reed-Barnett's educational priorities are reflected in the academic paths she chose. She received her Bachelor's in Psychology at Medgar Evers College and a Master's in Education at Long Island University. She then went on to receive her Doctorate of Education from Nova Southeastern University with a concentration in Child, Youth and Family Studies.

Dr. Reed-Barnett is currently a secondary school counselor and administrator, in addition to serving as an Administrative Adjunct at Medgar Evers College for the College "Now" Program. She has taken her passion for education and used it to teach young people in her community the love and dedication that ought to be devoted to higher learning.

She is aware of the need for committed and dedicated educators and the importance of parental involvement in helping a child achieve maximum academic success. She has been instrumental in bringing many innovative programs to her school community as it relates to developing the "whole child," and building relationships between children and their families.

Dr. Reed-Barnett believes that true power lies in knowing how our educational and judicial system works and making it "work for us, not against us." This belief has been primary in driving Gail to become an active and visible participant in the Brooklyn community. She is a member of Community Board 17 and also

serves on its Youth Services Planning Committee. She has worked with State Senator, Kevin Parker, on educational issues and policies. She has also presented valuable information to parents, holding various community workshops on the "No Child Left Behind Act."

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the work of Gail Reed-Barnett, Ed.D, for her tireless efforts to educate and empower the youth of our country.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Gail Reed-Barnett.

IN HONOR OF WEST VIRGINIA DAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise on this special day to honor my home among the hills, the great state of West Virginia. It was on June 20, 1863, that West Virginia became the 35th state to enter the Union.

The distinctiveness of West Virginia can be traced to its unique founding, as the only state to have been formed as a direct result of the Civil War, through Presidential proclamation.

In a reaction to Virginia's overrepresentation of eastern planters in the state legislature and complicated further by the swirling political issues of the day, on June 11, 1861, delegates from Virginia's western counties met to nullify Virginia's secession from the Union. Fifty counties (all of present-day West Virginia except for the land that now comprises Mineral, Grant, Lincoln, Mingo, and Summers Counties) constituted the newly formed state and served as the genesis of the vibrant and diverse place we know today as West Virginia.

The Constitution of West Virginia was approved in April of 1862, and in May of 1863, Arthur I. Boreman became our first governor. By June 20, 1863, West Virginia was officially a sovereign state. The sheer beauty of West Virginia now stands in stark and welcome contrast to the ugly conflict from which it was born.

Since its inception, West Virginia has been blessed with a striking landscape, placing it—we West Virginians believe—in a league all its own. The West Virginia state motto—"Montani Semper Liberi—" "Mountaineers are always free," sums up our powerful love of liberty and pays homage to our beautifully rugged lands that have honed our grit and determination, while attracting thousands of visitors each year.

West Virginia has historically been a leader in steel, glass, aluminum, chemical manufacturing, and natural gas industries. Small family farmers continue traditions that have served them for generations, providing, among other goods, some of the world's best apples. And our miners, who have long produced the coal that made our country strong, continue to dig to keep our national economy running.

But, as the old saying goes "nothing endures but change." And we are seeing a change in West Virginia. In fact, West Virginia's foray into new technology has provided new horizons for her residents, opening West Virginia for business while allowing us to remain wild and wonderful.

West Virginia may be 144 years old today, but it is just beginning to blossom. Our future

is as bright as an early summer morning sunrise over the Appalachian hills.

Today, and every day, West Virginians thank the Lord for our bountiful blessings. We are kindred spirits, bound together in loyalty and love for our fine state. And everyday, wherever we may roam, we think of "happy home" and that place among the hills that truly is "Almost Heaven."

SBA ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to the SBA Entrepreneurial Development Programs Act of 2007. I am a strong supporter of Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs). These centers continue to do a lot of good work to promote job creation and small business development throughout our nation. There are three SBDCs that serve constituents in the 16th District of Illinois and they do phenomenal work in oftentimes a difficult local economic climate with limited resources. But I fear that the various SBDC bills we debate this week may kill the program with kindness.

The bills all taken together proposes to create nine new grant initiatives within the SBDC program. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the bills would add \$122 million in additional spending in Fiscal Year 2008 alone and \$365 million over the next five fiscal years. When you consider that the Democrat-controlled House Appropriations Financial Services Subcommittee recently provided a generous increase of \$11 million for the regular SBDC program to reach \$100 million for Fiscal Year 2008, these bills taken together proposes to more than double the size of the SBDC program. In an era of tight budgets, I don't think any program deserves a 122 percent increase.

I am sympathetic to many of these initiatives. I am particularly supportive of making sure that Small Business Administration (SBA) employees do not interfere in hiring decisions of local SBDCs. I also support provisions in Section 207 to require more information, primarily through Internet Web-based technologies, about regulatory compliance to small business owners.

But there are still significant outstanding budgetary issues. Throughout my tenure as the former Chairman of the House Small Business Committee, I tried numerous times to see the National Regulatory Assistance and the Native American Entrepreneurial Assistance SBDC initiatives, among others, become law. Last year, we reached a common-sense consensus that in order to get these new initiatives into law, the high \$135 million authorization level for the overall SBDC program should be proportionally reduced. However, that consensus is not in these bills that we are debating this week. I find it odd that the "pay-go" fiscal conservative rhetoric of the Democrats is not met by reality. There are no spending offsets in these bills.

Some of these initiatives also are duplicative of existing Federal programs. For example,

the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program administered by the Department of Commerce through local centers across the nation offers the very same services that are outlined in Section 203 of H.R. 2359. The National Veterans Business Development Corporation (or Vets Corp) offers the same services as those being proposed in H.R. 2366.

I also have concern that some of the provisions in H.R. 2359 go beyond the mission of SBDCs, which historically has been primarily targeted at helping new or struggling small businesses. For example, Section 206 requires that SBDC grant recipients "shall also attempt to negotiate lower health insurance premiums for small business concerns that seek the assistance of the recipient." In my view, it is not the role of SBDCs to get involved in the pricing health insurance premiums. Section 204 of H.R. 2359 establishes a new program to help transition so-called "mature" small businesses even though there is no definition of what the authors of this legislation mean by "transition" or "mature" small business. Again, I don't think it is the role of SBDCs to be involved in initiatives that could result in the closure of small businesses.

I also fear that creating these nine new initiatives all at once will give false hope to SBDCs seeking to receive these grants. These initiatives will not start until a specific amount separate from the regular SBDC appropriation is allocated from the Appropriations Committee. In principle, this is a good policy to help insure that the money to run the regular SBDC program is not raided to fund these new initiatives. However, noting that the Democrat-controlled House Appropriations Financial Services Subcommittee just provided a long-overdue increase for the regular SBDC program, I seriously doubt that any of these specific SBDC initiatives will be funded at a significant level in the near future, further diminishing the expectations behind this legislation.

Finally, these nine new initiatives create many hoops for local SBDCs to jump through in order to qualify for these grants. These bills will create a paperwork and accounting nightmare for SBDCs to keep track of various grants, particularly if they apply and receive multiple awards under different initiatives, for the programs they administer. In retrospect, it is probably best that Congress provides an overall increase in the appropriation for the regular SBDC program and then require that all SBDCs provide some services (even if it is to network with another specialized SBDC or another Federal partner such as a local MEP center or the Vets Corp) in the nine issue areas outlined in H.R. 2359, H.R. 2366, and H.R. 2284 as opposed to the micro-management approach as contained in these bills.

Mr. Speaker, last year, I predicted that if Democrats took over control of Congress, spending on the Small Business Administration (SBA) would dramatically increase. Never in my wildest dreams did I think they would be so brazen. Elections do matter. Thus far this year, the CBO estimates that the Democrat-controlled House Small Business Committee has authorized \$5.4 billion in new spending over the next 5 years—\$1.379 billion in fiscal year 2008 alone. With these bills on the suspension calendar this week, proposed spending on the SBA will grow once again. All totaled, the CBO estimates that spending on the

SBA will increase by nearly \$5.8 billion over 4 years and \$1.525 billion in fiscal year 2008 alone. To put this massive spending increase in perspective, the House Appropriations Financial Services Subcommittee recommends providing \$582 million in total spending on the SBA in fiscal year 2008. I urge my colleagues to stand up for fiscal responsibility and to prevent mission-creep within the SBDC network by voting against these bills.

CALLING ON UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL TO CHARGE IRANIAN PRESIDENT WITH CERTAIN VIOLATIONS BECAUSE OF HIS CALLS FOR DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted "present" on H. Con. Res. 21 because I believe it dilutes the definition of genocide and would ratchet up tensions with Iran without any likelihood of actually doing anything about Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's dangerous anti-Semitism and Iran's ability to inflict harm on Israel. Instead, we need a new framework for relations with Iran that advances our interests and values through engagement and support for the Iranian people. At a time when we haven't dealt meaningfully with the serious and ongoing genocide in Darfur, I am not convinced it advances our long-term interest in strengthening the international legal regime against mass killing by defining another Muslim leader's call for Israel's destruction as genocide.

A TRIBUTE TO ANGEL ROSARIO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Angel Rosario. Angel was born in 1960 in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from John Jay High School in 1979, where he earned All-City Honors in baseball in 1978 and 1979. After high school, Angel played baseball at Long Island University where he was named a collegiate all-star in 1982.

In 1997, Angel graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Community Health from Empire State College. While working towards his degree, Angel became heavily involved with the New York City Department of Health HIV Bureau. He worked with the Bureau for 9 years, from 1990 through 1999; he spent 7 of those years in the Managed Care field.

Currently, Angel serves as a Marketing Director for Healthfirst which operates in hospitals that are under the direction of the Health Hospital Corporation. Angel has kept himself busy by working closely with his community for the past 25 years. He oversees Summer Day Programs, Beacon Programs and After School Programs. He works with both senior citizens as a Social Service Worker, and with

children in a group home for teens. Angel says this is the type of work that makes him happy and encourages him to continue to involve himself with communities in need.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the work of Angel Rosario, as his passion for helping people in need has significantly impacted those in his community.

Madam Speaker, Angel Rosario's work service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in my district on Monday and Tuesday of this week and missed rollcall vote No. 119 through vote No. 126. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 499, 500, and 501. On Tuesday, June 19, I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510 and 511.

HONORING THE NORTH TEXAS FOOD BANK ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize a landmark that was achieved by an organization that addresses critical issues of hunger in the north Texas area by securing wholesome foods and grocery products for distribution through a network of charitable organizations. This year the North Texas Food Bank will celebrate the completion of its Oak Cliff warehouse project in time for its 25th anniversary.

The North Texas Food Bank was founded in 1982 and in the first year of operation the food bank distributed 400,000 pounds of food. The food bank is committed to serving the community and has continuously done so by reaching out to all of Texas and the entire Nation.

Recently, the food bank completed an extraordinary renovation and will now be able to store and distribute more food within its 72,000 square foot facility. The food bank is now equipped with an entirely new shelving system, two large freezers and a refrigerator that can hold 400 pallets of food.

Even during all of the reconstruction, which took more than a year, the food bank continued its commitment to food distribution. With the new renovation, the food bank has the capacity to move 50–55 million pounds of food through the warehouse and bring the community into the warehouse.

I am delighted to congratulate the North Texas Food Bank on its 25th anniversary and expansion. The North Texas Food Bank is an important asset to the Dallas area, and their dedication and hard work is seen throughout our community. I would like to thank Jan Pru-

itt, the Chief Executive Officer, the volunteers and members of the North Texas Food Bank on their dedicated service to the Dallas community and I wish them many more years of success.

HONORING GENEVA HAYDEN AND THE COMMUNITIES UNITED TO REBUILD NEIGHBORHOODS (CURN)

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mrs. Geneva Hayden for her creation and development of the Communities United to Rebuild Neighborhoods (CURN) organization. Over the last thirteen years, Mrs. Hayden has reached out to more than five hundred inner city youths, making a significant impact on their lives.

An organization that began in Mrs. Hayden's living room as a makeshift library and homework help center, CURN has grown into an afternoon and summer program, and has positively impacted children from some of Syracuse's most challenged neighborhoods. Mrs. Hayden has organized literacy parades, picnics, and field trips to Boston, Toronto, and Washington D.C., helping to enhance the sense of cultural diversity among the children in her community and increase their exposure to a world of opportunity.

Mrs. Hayden is not only the driving force behind the organization, but is also the heart and soul of CURN. She took it upon herself to rally neighbors to pick up trash, drove drug dealers from the area, provided transportation for neighborhood kids to and from school, and inspired pride in young men and women in her community. Mrs. Hayden's organization instills positive values within today's youth and offers hope for a brighter tomorrow.

A wife, mother, and retired educator, Mrs. Hayden's devotion to the welfare of her community's children is most honorable, and sets an example in which all of us can aspire. I congratulate Ms. Hayden on her achievements and the positive impact she has made on her community and its youth.

HONORING CHARLES KANE

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I recognize Charles Kane, a man who dedicated his life to serving seniors, children and anyone in need. Earlier this month, Mr. Kane passed away after a fight with cancer. With his passing, Bucks County lost a great community leader and a committed advocate for senior citizens.

Mr. Kane was well known for his work in Bucks County, where he led numerous services agencies, including the Area Agency on Aging. By those who had the pleasure of working with him, Charlie will surely be missed, not only for his exceptional talent but his unwavering compassion. He truly cared

about the many individuals he helped on a daily basis throughout his impressive career. Madam Speaker, Charlie touched countless lives and his kindness will always be remembered.

Composed and professional, there was never any question about his passion. Charlie Kane had the enthusiasm and creativity to always find a way to get his job done to serve Bucks County. Madam Speaker, there was no challenge too insurmountable and no case too difficult for Mr. Kane. He was a man that the community could rely on.

Mr. Kane will always hold a place in our hearts. Our community must embrace the passion for helping others that Charlie exemplified. Even in this time of sadness and mourning, we must see Charlie and his work as an inspiration. Madam Speaker, Mr. Kane's efforts on behalf of Bucks County residents will have a lasting impact and his legacy will be that of a man who dedicated his life to helping others. Madam Speaker, I thank the other Members of Congress for joining me in celebrating the life and accomplishments of Charles Kane.

CALLING ON UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL TO CHARGE IRANIAN PRESIDENT WITH CERTAIN VIOLATIONS BECAUSE OF HIS CALLS FOR DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution. This resolution is an exercise in propaganda that serves one purpose: to move us closer to initiating a war against Iran. Citing various controversial statements by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, this legislation demands that the United Nations Security Council charge Ahmadinejad with violating the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Having already initiated a disastrous war against Iraq citing U.N. resolutions as justification, this resolution is like *deja-vu*. Have we forgotten 2003 already? Do we really want to go to war again for U.N. resolutions? That is where this resolution, and the many others we have passed over the last several years on Iran, is leading us. I hope my colleagues understand that a vote for this bill is a vote to move us closer to war with Iran.

Clearly, language threatening to wipe a nation or a group of people off the map is to be condemned by all civilized people. And I do condemn any such language. But why does threatening Iran with a pre-emptive nuclear strike, as many here have done, not also deserve the same kind of condemnation? Does anyone believe that dropping nuclear weapons on Iran will not wipe a people off the map? When it is said that nothing, including a nuclear strike, is off the table on Iran, are those who say it not also threatening genocide? And we wonder why the rest of the world accuses us of behaving hypocritically, of telling the rest of the world "do as we say, not as we do."

I strongly urge my colleagues to consider a different approach to Iran, and to foreign policy in general. GEN William Odom, President

Reagan's director of the National Security Agency, outlined a much more sensible approach in a recent article titled "Exit From Iraq Should Be Through Iran." General Odom wrote: "Increasingly bogged down in the sands of Iraq, the US thrashes about looking for an honorable exit. Restoring cooperation between Washington and Tehran is the single most important step that could be taken to rescue the U.S. from its predicament in Iraq." General Odom makes good sense. We need to engage the rest of the world, including Iran and Syria, through diplomacy, trade, and travel rather than pass threatening legislation like this that paves the way to war. We have seen the limitations of force as a tool of U.S. foreign policy. It is time to try a more traditional and conservative approach. I urge a "no" vote on this resolution.

HONORING BLUEFIELD ORIOLES
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Bluefield Orioles, which, for a half a century has brought America's pastime to southern West Virginia. With the crack of the bats this week, the "Baby Birds" will mark the beginning of their 50th consecutive year as a Baltimore minor league affiliate. This is a historic occasion, as this span of years is believed to be the longest continuous affiliations between a minor league team and the same Major League Baseball franchise. The endurance of this franchise is a testament to the dedication of the team's fans, the support of the Bluefield community, and the strength and loyalty of the Bluefield Orioles organization. I also commend the any longtime ballpark volunteers, including Patsy Malamisura, who sadly passed away last month. These folks are truly our Most Valuable Players.

A great contributor to the Bluefield economy over the years, minor league baseball has left its strong financial imprint on southern West Virginia. But this is not where this club's influence ends. The talented young players who have gotten their start on this team, including one of the greatest players of all time—Ironman Cal Ripken—have been role models and inspirations to generations. And countless friends and families have been brought a little closer by spending an evening together underneath the bright night lights. I thank the Baltimore Orioles organization for its many contributions and commend them on this great achievement.

May minor league baseball remain alive and well in West Virginia for another 50 years.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972 AND RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO CONTINUE PURSUING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 406, introduced by our new colleague from Hawaii, MAZIE HIRONO. Following in the long tradition of her fellow Hawaiian, our beloved Congresswoman PATSY MINK, Rep. HIRONO has introduced this important resolution which celebrates the 35th anniversary and accomplishments of Title IX of the Higher Education Act.

Title IX constituted a landmark civil rights victory for equal opportunity. It has created an even playing field for women to obtain crucial scholarships to help defray the rapidly escalating costs of a college education, facilitating the steady rise in the number of female doctors, attorneys, professors and corporate executives who help keep the American economy humming. Title IX has also signaled a sea change in women's athletics, with girls' participation in high school sports skyrocketing by 800 percent and in college by 400 percent since its passage. Because of Title IX, our daughters are healthier, have higher grades, lower pregnancy rates, are less likely to use drugs and are more likely to graduate from college.

Though Title IX has been a huge success, the battle for equality is not yet won. In 2002, women made up 54 percent of college students, but they only comprised 43 percent of college athletes. Meanwhile, men received 36 percent more athletic scholarships than women. Women also receive only 20 percent of computer science and engineering-related technology bachelor's degrees and only 39 percent of all full professors at colleges and universities are women.

Girls and women have benefitted immeasurably from this critical legislation. Now is the time to praise and protect Title IX, not curtail it. I thank Congresswoman HIRONO for recognizing this important anniversary and call on my colleagues to support this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 15, 2007, and Monday, June 18, 2007, I attended events with Alabama's governor and other elected leaders to recruit significant economic development projects for my district and our state and subsequently was absent for 36 votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 491 and "yea" on rollcall 498.

HONORING SYLVESTER MYERS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a native West Virginian who found that talent and ambition together with discipline and determination was a powerful recipe for success. . . . Sylvester C. Myers, President and CEO of S.C. Myers and Associates, Inc.

Today, June 21st, Sylvester celebrates his 75th birthday. He has recently published his inspiring life story in a memoir entitled, "From Coal Fields to Oil Fields and Beyond, A Life in Pursuit of All I Could Be." The book chronicles Sylvester's humble beginnings from the coal-mining community of Keystone, West Virginia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is a story of his transformation from country youth to world-traveling businessman, a story that points the way for all who desire to craft their lives to match their potentials.

Sylvester founded S.C. Myers and Associates, Inc. in 1988 after retiring from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with 25 years of service. He spent the last 11 of those years serving as the "budget watchdog" of the Corps' \$20 billion military construction program in Saudi Arabia.

The company provides construction cost and project management services for government agencies, architectural firms, engineering firms and developers in the private sector. The company has offices in Washington, D.C., Bramwell, WV, Boston, MA and Baltimore, MD. The company currently has long standing projects with Baltimore-Washington International Airport and Washington-Dulles International Airport.

Sylvester was the former President of the American Association of Cost Engineers International (AACEI), National Capitol Section. He served as Director of AACEI Region II; Chairman of the AACEI Government Liaison Committee; member of the D.C. Building Industry Association's (DCBIA) Housing Committee; American Association of Blacks in Energy; the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Bluefield (WV) State College Alumni Association; and Chairman of the Institutional Advisory Board of Bluefield (WV) State College.

In 1999, Sylvester received the Total Cost Management Excellence Award and Fellow at the AACEI Annual Meeting. He served on the Board of the Architectural Engineering Council of Washington, D.C.; Finance Committee of the Anthony Bowen YMCA in Washington, D.C. In April 1999, Sylvester received a Presidential Citation from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), in recognition of exemplary experiences that honor Bluefield (WV) State College.

Sylvester is an alumnus of Bluefield (WV) State College and a graduate of George Washington University's School of Business and Public Management (Government Contracting and Project Management Master's Certification). Mr. Myers resides with his wife, Janice M. Myers, in Bramwell, West Virginia and they are the parents of five children. I am very proud to have Sylvester and Janice as my constituents.

On behalf of myself and the people of the great State of West Virginia, we thank Sylvester for his years of dedicated and professional service to the Nation and his contributions to the arts and wish him continued success in the next chapter of his personal and professional life. He has been, and will forever remain, a shining example of the willpower and determination that it takes to make dreams come true.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY
AND MEDICAL LEAVE INCLUSION
ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, this year marks the 14th anniversary of the passage landmark legislation to help Americans balance the responsibilities of work and family, the Family and Medical Leave Act. The Family and Medical Leave Act (PL 103-3), allows qualified workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave a year to care for newborns, seek emergency medical care for himself/herself, parents, children under 18 or a legal spouse. Since becoming law, it has allowed many tens of millions of Americans to take unpaid leave without the risk of losing their jobs.

But, imagine if your domestic partner, same-sex spouse, adult child, parent-in-law, or grandparent was involved in a serious car accident and had no one to take care of him or her. Then imagine your employer telling you that you can't take a few days off work to care for your loved one because you are not covered by FMLA. This situation sounds preposterous, but there is no protection for you in current law. That is why I am introducing the FMLA Inclusion Act.

The Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act (H.R. 475 in the 109th Congress) amends the FMLA to permit leave to care for a domestic partner, same-sex spouse, parent-in-law, adult child, sibling, or grandparent if that person has a serious health condition.

I am pleased that the Human Rights Campaign has endorsed this legislation, and I am proud to introduce it with the support of original cosponsors Reps. FRANK, BALDWIN, WOOLSEY and SHAYS.

The FMLA Inclusion Act represents simple fairness, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that this fairness prevails.

DARFUR

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the situation in Darfur in western Sudan. As you know, nearly 450,000 people have been killed and over two million have been displaced as the violence continues to rage in this region. Neighboring nations have absorbed hundreds of thousands of refugees who fled their homes to escape the car-

nage that has unfortunately become a way of life in Darfur. Even humanitarian aid workers have become targets of the violence.

I am encouraged by the recent agreement between the United Nations and the African Union on the make up of a peacekeeping force to patrol the region. This agreement is a step in the right direction, but it is vital that the peacekeeping mission begins soon and the peacekeepers are allowed to carry out their mission effectively. It is important that we support those who are working to restore peace to the millions of innocent people caught in the tragedy in Darfur.

Nearly 3 years ago, on July 22, 2004, the U.S. House of Representatives declared the atrocities in Darfur to be genocide. The vote was bipartisan and unanimous. In the 110th Congress, we have already passed resolutions addressing the situation in Darfur with overwhelming bipartisan majorities.

This issue is not one of partisan politics or ideological differences. It is a moral issue, and we in the House of Representatives are united in our efforts to stop the violence and end the suffering in Darfur.

We can still do more. It is important that we divest funds from companies that do business with the government of Sudan. Divestment is an effective policy tool that would prevent the government of Sudan from receiving financial resources it is using to fund these atrocities. In addition, divestment is the right thing to do. It does not make sense to fund indirectly the very genocide we seek to end.

The crisis in Darfur is a tragedy of our times. I am pleased that the House of Representatives has taken action to ease the suffering of the innocent people in Darfur, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the House to bring this terrible chapter of history to a close with a just and lasting peace in Sudan. May God help us all do the right thing.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER TODD UNGER

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of mine, Father Todd Unger, who is celebrating his 25th anniversary as a Catholic priest later this month. I join the parishioners of St. Peter Church in The Dalles, Oregon in congratulating Father Todd.

Father Todd has served the people of the Diocese of Baker, Oregon with dedication and humility. He was ordained a Catholic priest for the Diocese of Baker, on June 29, 1982 in Redmond, Oregon—the town where he was born. His first assignment was as Associate Pastor in Pendleton, Oregon at St. Mary Catholic Church from 1982–1986. He rose to Pastor in 1986 when he was transferred to St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in John Day, Oregon. He served there from 1986–1990. He served the next 8 years as Pastor of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Madras, Oregon. He undertook his present assignment, as Pastor of St. Peter Catholic Church in The Dalles, in 1998.

In addition to his duties as Pastor at St. Peter Church, Father Todd administers St.

Mary's Academy in The Dalles, a pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade school. St. Mary's Academy has been in continuous operation for 142 years providing an educational faith community for students in Wasco County, Oregon. During his 9 years at The Dalles, Father Todd has twice been called upon to assume the additional duties of principal at the school, once for a few months and once for the entire school year.

In addition to all of his church-related tasks, Father Todd has also been an active citizen in every community that he has served. In Pendleton, he was a member of Kiwanis and a Red Cross Swimming Instructor. In John Day, Father Todd again taught swimming for the Red Cross and began what has been a career-long interest in serving as a volunteer firefighter for the community. In Madras, he again joined the Volunteer Fire Department, and in 1994 he was named Firefighter of the Year. He also served as a member of the Central Oregon Council on Aging, was an active member of Kiwanis, and this time he taught first aid for the Red Cross. In The Dalles, Father Todd became a Rotarian, and again joined the Volunteer Fire Department. He was named Firefighter of the Year in 2000.

Everywhere that Father Todd has gone, he has tirelessly ministered to the spiritual and physical needs of the community. He has added greatly to the quality of life in the communities he has served. Father Todd is a sterling example of what it means to be of service. I hope these words in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD will serve as a small indicator of thanks from the citizens of the Second Congressional District of Oregon and our congratulations on his Silver Jubilee as a Catholic priest.

HONORING RELAY FOR LIFE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Relay For Life, held in Bridgeview, Illinois. The event, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, is considered the organization's signature activity. This year is especially significant as the June 22–23 event at the Bridgeview Park District marks the 15th anniversary of the first Relay For Life event in Illinois.

Relay For Life is an overnight event designed to bring together those who have been touched by cancer in our communities. At the event, participants celebrate survivorship, remember those lost to cancer, and raise money to help the American Cancer Society. Proceeds fund its mission of helping those who have been touched by cancer, empowering individuals to fight back, and saving lives.

Programs such as Road to Recovery, Look Good Feel Good, Support Recovery, and the American Cancer Society's Patient Navigation Services all benefit from the annual event. These programs and services assist patients with educational, technological, logistical, and emotional support, and further the search for a cure.

Through the tireless participation of families, schools, companies, hospitals, and other community groups, Relay For Life has assisted

those affected by cancer for well over a decade. Today, I am honored to recognize this important event, its participants, and its worthy mission. I am especially pleased to acknowledge and congratulate the supporters of Relay For Life in Bridgeview, Illinois. The work and dedication of these individuals ensure a brighter future for those affected by cancer and serve as an inspiration to all citizens.

A TRIBUTE TO MEL OLSSON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mel Olsson on his retirement after more than three decades in service of our country's defense and the men and women who build the submarines that protect our national security.

Mel began his career at Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut as a pipefitter apprentice in 1961. After decades of work at EB, Mel was eventually elected in 1990 as President of the Marine Draftsmen's Association, MDA-UAW Local 571. Serving as MDA President until 2003, Mel served on a number of negotiating teams, and was chief negotiator for eight successful contract negotiations with Electric Boat and Computer Sciences Corporation.

Mel has not only ably represented his colleagues in Local 571, but he has also been a community pillar in eastern Connecticut by serving in state and local organizations. Mel served on the Board of Directors of the United Way, is a member of the Work Force Investment Board, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Charter Oak Federal Credit Union. In addition, Mel is the former Chairman of the Electric Boat Community Services Committee, and is a member of the Stonington Democratic Town Committee.

Mel and his wife, Dorothy, reside in Mystic and have been married for forty-two years. They are the proud parents of their daughter, Alyssa.

Mel retired as a Piping Design Tech at Electric Boat on May 31, 2007, after thirty-six years of remarkable service. The men and women of UAW/MDA 571 and Electric Boat will miss his leadership and vision inside the gates at EB, but I know they will join me in saluting Mel Olsson and his outstanding and unique career in eastern Connecticut.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROL SCHACHTER, FORMER CHAIR OF COMMUNITY BOARD 6 OF MANHATTAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Carol Schachter, the former Chair of Community Board 6 of Manhattan. Ms. Schachter is being honored this month at the annual dinner of the Board, which plays a critical advisory function in New York City's municipal government on a wide range of matters relating to the quality of

life in several neighborhoods on Manhattan's East Side.

Originally appointed to serve on Community Board 6 in 1995, Carol Schachter served with distinction as its Chair from 2004 to 2006. She currently is the Board's Secretary and Chair of its Business Affairs and Street Activities Committee, positions she also held prior to her election as Chair. As Chair of Community Board 6, Carol Schachter helped spearhead the effort to preserve the "Sobriety Garden" at Bellevue Hospital, an initiative she undertook with her husband, John.

Ms. Schachter also ably oversaw the development of the Community Board's 197-A and 197-C zoning and land use plans. With the closing of the Con Edison waterside plant, a large swathe of Community Board 6 will be rezoned. This offers the opportunity to create new parks and open space, as well as new schools. The 197-A and 197-C plans address these important land use issues as well as other significant concerns in the Community Board 6 area. The Board's final submission was thoughtful and inspiring, presenting a promising vision of the future for its neighborhoods.

As the Chair of Manhattan Community Board 6, Ms. Schachter led her fellow Members in carrying out the Board's challenging mission of reviewing and advising municipal government on a broad spectrum of public policies and issues, such as land use, zoning, and the City budget. With firm and effective leadership, Carol Schachter led Community Board 6 as it monitored the nuts and bolts of municipal government, as well, including the delivery of City services. She devoted herself tirelessly to improving the local quality of life on concerns including traffic congestion, deteriorating housing stock, sanitation pick-up and street cleaning, and the oversight of local bars and restaurants. As the Board's Chair, she ably represented the interests of residents and businesses in a large, diverse area of Manhattan stretching from East 14th Street to East 59th Street and from Irving Place, Lexington and Park Avenues to the East River.

In addition to her tireless service to Community Board 6 of Manhattan, Carol Schachter has been a dedicated civic activist. She volunteered her time and effort as President of the Stuyvesant Park Neighborhood Association, serves as a member of the 13th, 17th and 19th Police Precinct Councils, and helped found the organization All Out Arts.

Madam Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Carol Schachter for her outstanding service and dedication to the civic life of our nation's greatest metropolis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I regret that I could not vote on rollcall vote No. 502 through roll call vote No. 511, on June 19, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Nay" on rollcall No. 502 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to reduce funding for the Army Corps of Engineers investigations by \$30 million.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 503 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to reduce funding for the Army Corps of Engineers construction by \$481 million.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 504 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to reduce funding for the Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River and tributaries project by \$18 million.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 505 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to reduce funding for the Army Corps of Engineers operation and maintenance by \$184 million.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 506 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to Strike section 105 in the bill.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 507 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to reduce funding for the Bureau of Reclamation's water projects account by \$55 million.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 508 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to reduce funding for Bureau of Reclamation's policy and administration account by \$1.2 million.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 509 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to reduce funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs (Weatherization Assistance) by \$102 million.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 510 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to redirect \$20 million in funding within the Nuclear Energy account to support the Nuclear Power 2010 program from Gen IV reactor program.

"Nay" on rollcall No. 511 on agreeing to the amendment to H.R. 2641, to reduce funding for fossil fuels research and development by \$142 million.

THE VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL JERSEY—95 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the achievements of the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey. Since its establishment in 1912, this nonprofit, voluntary organization has treated individuals of all needs and ages living in my district and the surrounding region. In its 95 years of service, the organization has undergone numerous successful expansions, helping it to become a top provider of hospice and in-home health care in central New Jersey.

With an original mission to improve prison conditions and approaches to public assistance, the agency over the years has broadened the type of community care it provides. Now it is most well known for its outstanding in-home services. These services are critical to individuals who need frequent and adequate care in order to remain in their own homes.

The association's team of nurses continually strive to keep up with in-home technological advances, ensuring that patients receive the latest in quality care. VNACJ looks after the aging population, founding a local hospice program in the 1980s and 1990s. At the other end of the spectrum, VNACJ also focuses its efforts on the needs of children. The organization has worked to expand handicap services

to children as well as establish parenting and nutrition education programs, children's shelters, and well-child conferences.

In addition to treating patients of all ages, the agency attends to all types of health matters. In the 1940s and 1950s, VNACJ played an important role in establishing Monmouth County branches of some of today's most important health care organizations, including the Heart Association, the Cancer Society, and the Cerebral Palsy Treatment Center. The agency also pays particular attention to providing health care services to migrants as well as veterans. Community immunizations and AIDS treatments are just a few of a comprehensive list of services the VNACJ provides.

Under the leadership of its chairman and my friend, Judith Stanley Coleman, and with the help of over 1,000 employees treating 100,000 patients each year, the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey claims a spot among the nation's largest nonprofit in-home health groups.

On a personal level, almost every family in my district has, at one time or another, called upon the Visiting Nurses for help with a pressing health need. The reaction from the families I have spoken with over the years is uniformly positive: they deeply appreciated the warmth, the skill and the professionalism of the visiting nurses who came to their homes and helped their loved ones.

It is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the 95 years of quality care the VNACJ has provided to residents of central New Jersey.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to all the friends,

family and supporters of the UJA-Federation of New York on the occasion of its 90th anniversary. Since its establishment nine decades ago, UJA-Federation of New York has provided a voice of compassion and caring as the philanthropic arm of New York's Jewish community. Throughout its history, UJA-Federation of New York has been guided by its precepts of *chesed* and *tikkun olam*, while fulfilling its essential and righteous mission of extending a helping hand to those in need. Its extraordinary success in serving the underprivileged and disadvantaged have placed the UJA-Federation in the forefront of efforts to serve poor, the elderly, and people in need in New York, Israel, and throughout the world.

Ingrained with the compassionate and philanthropic spirit that has characterized Judaism throughout its history, UJA-Federation's record of generosity is unparalleled. It is ably led by distinguished civic leaders, including its President, Morris W. Offit; the Chair of the Board, Susan K Stern; and Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer John S. Ruskay. UJA-Federation takes pride in its dedication to strengthening communities, advocating for at-risk youths, empowering the disadvantaged, and educating people of all ages. Operating through more than 100 agencies, including some of the leading institutions in New York's 14th Congressional District that I am privileged to represent, such as the 92nd Street Y and Beth Israel Medical Center, UJA-Federation has helped more than 4,000,000 people in New York and throughout the world. UJA-Federation and its affiliated network have provided a vast range of vital services, including home visits to the housebound elderly; social and emotional support for Holocaust survivors in New York; scholarships allowing children from the metropolitan area to attend Jewish sleepaway summer camps; and counseling, peer mentoring, and workshops on education and prevention for women battling breast and ovarian cancer on Long Island.

The UJA-Federation's accomplishments extend far beyond our borders. Using cutting-edge technology, the UJA-Federation of New York has provided assistance to Jewish communities from Belarus to Buenos Aires. The

UJA-Federation makes possible initiatives such as teaching Hebrew to Ethiopian Jews immigrating to Israel, providing crisis counselors after the Beslan school hostage crisis, and furnishing 13,600 elderly Jews in the former U.S.S.R. with hot meals and companionship.

The UJA-Federation's compassion is also reflected in its commitment to emergency response and disaster relief. In 2002, the UJA-Federation formally established and funded the Israel Trauma Coalition, an alliance of medical and social service providers working to improve the trauma-response capacity of the Israeli mental health system, a program that has expanded from seven organizations to encompass more than forty agencies. Since the tragic 2004 tsunami that devastated Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Indonesia, the UJA-Federation's Tsunami Relief Fund has successfully raised more than \$3.5 million that was allocated to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to support emergency and long-term aid to affected areas. In the United States, the UJA-Federation's Hurricane Relief Fund has raised more than \$5.1 million to provide desperately needed assistance to Gulf Coast communities ravaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

The steadfast and enduring commitment of UJA Federation-New York to serving others is reflected in its newly renovated building at 130 East 59th Street in New York City, where the Federation has been headquartered for half a century. The bright new facade, lobby, internal systems and office facilities reflect the dedication and bright future of the UJA-Federation of New York.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary success and achievements of UJA-Federation of New York on the occasion of its 90th anniversary.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 21, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

- June 22
- 10 a.m.
Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine a new vision for medical research relating to the fiscal year 2008 budget for the National Institutes of Health.
SD-116
- June 25
- 11 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine excessive speculation in the natural gas market.
SD-106
- 3 p.m.
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine pipeline politics, focusing on conflict prevention and the security of supply and transit of oil and natural gas.
SD-419
- June 26
- 9:30 a.m.
Budget
To continue hearings to examine health care and the budget, focusing on the Healthy Americans Act and other options for reform.
SD-608
- 10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the impact of media violence on children.
SR-253
- Energy and Natural Resources
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the preparedness of the federal land management agencies for the 2007 wildfire season and efforts to contain the costs of wildfire management activities.
SD-366
- Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of William W. Mercer, of Montana, to be Associate Attorney General.
SD-226

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine Smithsonian Institution governance reform, focusing on a report by the Smithsonian's Independent Review Committee.
SR-301

Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Business meeting to consider original bills entitled, "Entrepreneurial Development Act of 2007", "Small Business Venture Capital Act of 2007", and other pending calendar business.
SR-428A

2:30 p.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine ending mortgage abuse, focusing on safeguarding homebuyers.
SD-538

Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH-219

June 27

9:30 a.m.
Judiciary
Constitution Subcommittee
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the federal death penalty.
SD-226

Veterans' Affairs
Business meeting to markup pending legislation; to be immediately followed by a full committee hearing to examine the nomination of Charles L. Hopkins, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Operations, Preparedness, Security and Law Enforcement).
SD-562

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider S. 793, to provide for the expansion and improvement of traumatic brain injury programs, and S. 1011, to change the name of the National Institute on Drug Abuse to the National Institute on Diseases of Addiction and to change the name of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to the National Institute on Alcohol Disorders and Health, original bills entitled, "Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act", "Wired for Health Care Quality Act", and other pending calendar business.
SD-628

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To continue hearings to examine violent Islamist extremism, focusing on the European experience.
SD-342

Environment and Public Works
Transportation Safety, Infrastructure Security, and Water Quality Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine protecting water quality at America's beaches.
SD-406

10:30 a.m.
Aging
To hold hearings to examine the relationship between doctors and the drug industry.
SD-106

2 p.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jill E. Sommers, of Kansas, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for the

remainder of the term expiring April 13, 2009, and Bartholomew H. Chilton, of Delaware, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for the remainder of the term expiring April 13, 2008.
SR-328A

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 1171, to amend the Colorado River Storage Project Act and Public Law 87-483 to authorize the construction and rehabilitation of water infrastructure in Northwestern New Mexico, to authorize the use of the reclamation fund to fund the Reclamation Water Settlements Fund, to authorize the conveyance of certain Reclamation land and infrastructure, to authorize the Commissioner of Reclamation to provide for the delivery of water.
SD-366

June 28

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
SR-253

2:30 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH-219

3 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine financial management systems modernization at the Department of Homeland Security, focusing on systems and processes needed to support the Department's mission and operations.
SD-342

July 9

2:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Investigations Subcommittee
To continue hearings to examine excessive speculation in the natural gas market.
SD-342

July 10

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine community services and support, focusing on planning across the generation.
SD-106

July 11

10 a.m.
Judiciary
To continue hearings to examine the Department of Justice politicizing the hiring and firing of United States Attorneys, focusing on preserving prosecutorial independence (Part VI).
SD-226

July 17

July 18

July 25

2:30 p.m.

10 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

Judiciary

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense education issues.

To continue oversight hearings to examine the Department of Justice.

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Department of Veterans Affairs health care funding.

SH-216

SD-562

SD-562